

Computer Weekly

Thursday, February 17, 1983



Computer System

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Services firms ready for actions

sufficiency on board. A growing own favour," he said.

number of first-time users are

Eyeions said the Ac going to court over system contracts, and all leading services companies now have full-time legal people working on contracts, liti-gation and software piracy.

The new rules come under the Supply of Goods and Services Act, which in July extends consumer protection from products - now covered by the Salc of Goods Act to services. The Department of Trade says the fact that the provision of services will be covered by an Act of Parliament will make it far easier for consumers to take heir grievances to court.

This could have significant impact because at present disputes revolve largely around the wording of contracts," said Douglas lycions, director-general of the ing Services Association.

Bill Jacot, director of Londonbased consultancy DBA Computer users have had their expectations raised by all the talk of comput-

by John Kavanagh
VAT demands have put the Data
General specialist software house
Computerplan out of business. But

a new company, Computerplan Software Services has been formed

by the management to take over the business and 10 staff.

The new company expects to be profitable on its first-year turnover of £750,000 — and hopes to pay off Computerplan's creditors after

The new company has the back-ing of Dats Geoeral: at the cred-

ltor's meeting tomorrow (Friday) the US minicomputer manufac-

turer will support the manage-

by John Kavanagh
COMPUTING services companies

selves unprotected. "Few firsttime users bother to read their are gearing up to face new consumer protection laws and taking tend to word the contracts in their

> Eveions said the Act could help users buying turnkey systems. Legal people could argue that a turnkey system supplier was providing a service by adding software to some hardware, he said.
> "They could argue that the product - the hardware - was working as it should. But this Act will now also cover the software

Leading software firms, including Logica and Scicon, confirmed that they had taken on or ex-panded their legal departments in the last year.

"There is more litigation now than ever before" Eyeions said.
"In a recession people want to make sure their investments are paying off. At the same time the industry is growing very quickly.
And micro and minicomputer users have had their expectations raised by all the talk of comput-

Management sets up new company

after VAT man knocks at door

has set up a section to help lawyers involved in computing cases. "in all the cases we have advised on there has been an element of the user not fully appreciating what was involved in moving to a com-

> Jacot said 90% of the cases had been involved in had been atarted by usera. But they were not all small first-time users. They ranged from a large city institution and an international company to a small firm selling stamps.

The new legislation was wel-comed guardedly by users. "We're io favour of a oythiog that strengthens our arm," said George Goodwin, an officer of the IBM usera association.

"But litigation must always be a last resort. Normally the supplier is anxious to leave a good impression and the user is anxious to sort things out, so the two sides work closely together on a problem. But once the user goes to court that cooperation goes out of the

Although the government is committing itself only to the cash available for 1983, the industrial groups are required to set themselves targets for the next three years.

by Jack Gee
AILING computer firm Cii
Honeywell Buli is the first of
France's nationalised groups to receive its 1.55 billion Francs (£155
million) share of the Ffr 20 billion
(£2 billion) which the French government is allotting this year to the
loss-making industry sector.
Jeao-Pierre Chevenement,
Minister for Research and Industry, went to Cii Honeywell Bull's

try, went to Cii Honeyweli Bull's Paris beadquarters to sign a contract for the cash payment in return for commitments by chair-man Jacques Stern to an ambitious development and manufacturing programme. France's electronics and compu-

ter makets are receiving only a reladvely small share of the funds earmarked for the State sector in 1983. Thomson-CSF will get Pfr 16.6 billion (£i60 million). Compagnie Generale D'Electricite, the only group to turn in a handsome profit, will collect Ffr 870 million (£87 million).

Remarking jocosely on the meagre sums available for high techology industry, Chevenement said: "It's up to the firms which

rand who, after a private lunch with the chief executives of the state firms, told Chevenement to



Burroughs into PCMs

"Computerplan has invested substantially lo software development since its formation in 1977," said George Brown, managing director of Computerplan and majority shareholder. "But Brown and tive senior people are now working on the purchase of Computerplan Software Services from the parent. He said there were no blds from outside.

A Data General spokesman said the US firm was a "major creditor."

Sperry appeared to end a long-established link between Sperry Univac and Oki Blectronic, which made and supplied Univac.

machines in Japan.

The coming deal between Burroughs and either Hitachi or Mitsubishi is also set to follow the pattern of old deals abandoned, new deals made, which is how things are going in Japan at the many many members, and the many coming and the state of the purpose of evaluating suppose of evaluati

Brown and five senior people are

the development costs overran the company. Computerplan Software Services was formed as a subsidiary in October to protect the users and jobs in anticipation of the parent being wound up.

"We had hoped to restructure the subsidiary's finances after six months, for example by bringing in an outside investor, and pay off Computerplan's ereditors. But a substantial creditor – the Customs and Bxcise – was not prepared to walt."

Brown added that another creditor, the Inland Revenue, had been ready to walt.

Brown add five tendence.

and Hitachi, as far as is known, contioues to supply IBM with laser printers despite the recent verdict against the company in California for stealing IBM secrets.

Late last year Minubishi did a deal with Sperry Univac for the supply of integrated circuits, large-scale integrated circuits and for some peripherals. The deal with Sperry appeared to end a long-

For this reason the Japanese feel certain that the major deal will be with Missibishi and Burroughs, with maybe some extended peripherals agreement with Hitschi.

LINE NOISE

UNDETERRED by peace pickets at a recent conference on the con versial defence language Ada, the government is about to announce £6 million support for the four companies of Ada Group. The money will be used by the consortium led by SPL International and flanked by ICL Systems Designers and Software Sciences, to develop the Ada Program Support Environment, or APSE, which includes the compiler and

STORAGE TECHNOLOGY ways it will make the first shipments of a central processor by the end of the year. Some commentators suggest the company could not bring a product to market so quickly, but as they say, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. The STC CPU will be about the siese of the expected new Olympia machine from IBM. STC is also promising shipments of its optical disc with four grabyte platter by next year. And it also production quantities? STC says it is signing provisional orders with customers on that basis.

LAMBART, the zero-to-£7 million in four years DRC systems specialist, is about to dip a too into micro waters. The company admits to plans to push 3-4,00 micros on to the UK market this year from an as yet unnamed foreign maker on an exclusive distributorship. But the Maldenhead brigade is anying tight-lipped about the supplier for their about to be signed deal and will only say that the colour graphics should clean up at least in the DRC market.



CHEVENEMENT . . . Giving priority to distributed systems.

Cii HB promises profit in return for govt cash

Chevenement said Cii

Honeywell Bull must give priority

to distributed systems and office

automation. The firm must also achieve a profit-making level in small computers and mainframes with a faster rate of growth than

the market. The Minister said its chances of

achieving these ambitions were en-hanced by the recent takeover of

Thomson-CSF's computer sub-sidiary SBMS and CIT-Alcatel's

terminal making subsidiary

Transac. Both firms are ioss-makers.

consider they are not getting enough to manage. That's what independent management means."

The Minister was making a snide comment on recent criticism from President Francois Mitter-



unied in Great Schole by OB Limited, Sheeper Place, Colchester COS 31J, and rebinded by Sectional Press 11d., Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Surton, Surton, Surton, SM2 565.

Commodore sales shows cover the entire UK

by Robert Parry COMMODORE, top seller UK micro market, is driven message home with a Today (Thursday) is the sound two days of concentrated off, invoiving all 154 of odore's UK dealers in the first distributed show first distributed show.

The country is covered Truro to Tayside, from Swannes Suffolk, with dealers ing the latest Common offerings - the 700 series, the and the reboxed 8000 series from botel exhibition centre. aim is to take the effort of finding out about Commodere

The shindig is costing Commodore.

The shindig is costing Commodore and its dealers well on £250,000, of which £100,000; coming from Commodore for its national advertising of the short.

Meanwhile Hewlett-Packadis.

Meanwhile Hewlett-Packadis.

been active on the advertisis at exhibition front too. Last seed ataged a personal Computer For Loudon's Barbican Coag in London's Barb

HP's version of the personal of tendy controversial European Bill puter story.

The event, backed up by a controversial European Bill puters story.

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The event, backed up by a controversial European Bill ingle controversial European Bill ingressial ingo of temporary workers after a transitional period of tight legis—

Temporary staff to be maximum;

Turn to page 2.

Socialist MEPs expect the amendment to be passed when the European Commission directive. that it is serious about permit imployees.

The amendment came from the HP 75C right the way up to bit influential 30-strong European bit desktop mainframe, the Ri Pauliamentsry Committee on 9000. It seems to have been as a Social Affairs and Employment, cess, according to a Hewlett hat which has been charged with and spokesman, who reported it studying and amending a directive good level of business — including a sumporary workers, proposed some for the HP 9000 — for the last year by the European Commiss.

Neither Conservative nor Socialist MEPs expect the amendment to be passed when the European Commission directive and amendments are debated by the full European Parliament in April. But the vote has increased the intensity of the campaign in the UK sgainst the directive.

The EC directive was issued in April last year largely as a result of company and the 40 softwar and

suppliers also taking part.

Apple too is getting into the an European Parliament, who oppose is dicated show game with it on the bull the Bill, hold a majority on the exhibition in Manchester and the hop when an alliance of

UK contract workers

the intensity of the campaign in the UK against the directive.

The RC directive was issued in April last year largely as a result of

trade union pressure, particularly in France and Germany. Among the proposals which could adversely affect the data processing

PATTERSON

CDC gets stake in Systime

US COMPUTING giant Control
Data has become the biggest sharebolder in the UK systems manufacturer Systime by buying about 35% for more than £10 million.
The move cuts the governmentowned British Techoology
Group's holding from 29.5% to
under 20% — and opens up new
overseas markets for Systime products. Control Data will be selling
the UK firm's systems in the US
and elsewhere and elsewhere.
Control Data's £10 million-plus

represents new investment in Systime through the issue of extra ahares. Systime managing director John Gow said the new money was needed to back the company's growth, running at 50% a year. Revenues this year are expected to reach £66 million, compared with £44 million in 1982.

"This move gives us the finance we've always wanted to get on and do the job properly," Gow said.
Systime approached its existing shareholders for backing first but the British Technology Group has just been told by the government that it must cut its annual spending to £10 millioo. The other shareholders before the Control Data involvement were a group of Data involvement were a group of pension funds, with 36.2%, and

five directors, including founder Gow and chairman John Parkin-son, with 34.2% between them. All these parties will have their

shareholdings reduced.

Gow said the investment made sense for Control Data because it was Systime's biggest supplier of components bought in from coveride. As a peripherals supplier outside. As a peripherals supplier Control Dats provided 40% of those components by value, he

Leader Comment — page 15.

said, whereas the US minicom puter firm Digital Equipment, which supplies processor boards, accounted for only 10%.

Systime is already in the US with its Systel teleprocessing monitor for DEC machines. But the

Control Dats involvement will take the company's equipment to the US for the first time in a big way. The systems include machines based on DEC's PDF. It and Vax minicomputer ranges as well as smaller machines designed by Systime and based on Intelections.

chips.

Over the last year the company bas moved into a new £15 million factory in Leeds, funded by the Department of Industry and the

Govt decision soon on Alvey plans

INFORMATION Technology Minister Kenneth Baker last week Minister Kenneth Baker last week announced in the Commons that the government would respond "shortly" to the Alvey Committee's £350 million plan to back Information technology in the UK.

Baker added that the government had almost finished its consultations with interested groups. A Departore of of Industry spokesman declined to comment

spokesman declined to comment on rumours that the government would announce plans to imple-ment all the major features of the report next month.

Sinclair's million

SINCLAIR Research claims to be the first company to sell a million home computers just three years after launching the Sinclair ZX80. It has sold 130,000 ZX80s, 750,000 ZX81s and so far nearly 200,000 of the newer and bigge ZX Spectrums, ss well as 600,000 computers made under licence by Timex for sale in North America.

Transac control

CII-HONEYWELL Bull's control of Transac, the peripherals subsidiary of Aicatel Electronique which is part of the vast State-owned Compagnie Geografe d' Electricité group.

First choice

APPLICATIONS for university computer science degrée courses computer science degree courses are up 5.1% on last year, according to the Universities Central Council on Admissions. The latest figures released by UCCA show that 4,795 school-leavers and others made computiog their first choice

Deal on for IBM and Matsushita

W Kevan Pearson

BM and Japanese electronics

magufacturer Matsushita are to innounce a joint venture to manuacture computers and ancillary

W... "Now we can get on and do the job proper

The two companies, in a formal statement, said they were holding detailed discussions on a proposal to set up a joint venture company to make information! processing supposed in Japan. No firm subscale has been put on the subscale has been put on the lower and of the information technology market, including terminals, office supposed point venture would concentrate on the lower and of the information technology market, including terminals, office supposed point venture would concentrate on the lower and of the information technology market, including terminals, office supposed point venture. an IBM spokesman said.

shita, the sixth largest electronics manufacturer in the world (known in the UK as National Panasonic) and IBM is believed to cover joint product development, as well as manufacturing: Matsusbita bas been working on office antomation equipment with extensive graphics facilities.

each a conclusion "as soon as pos- automation equipment and small business comput

IBM's computer expertise with Matsushita's knowledge of mass production techniques.

This is the first time the companies have admitted a serious business reladonship, despite rumours stretching back to 1981. It

of the IBM Personal Computer in the US in mid-1981, that Massu-shita had been commissioned to design a microcomputer for IBM. IBM denied this at the time, and the machine which emerged was designed by IBM staff. But ru-

IBM already has a sizeable

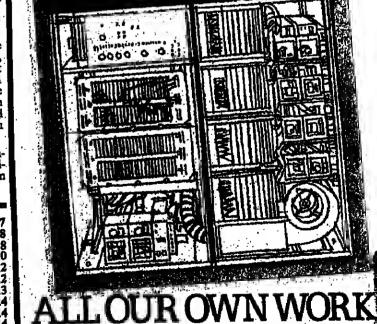
manufacturing operation in Japan, which is its second or third largest market outside the US. Until 1981 IBM was the largest supplier in the market, but it was then overtaken by Fujitau, and is being chased hard by Hitachi, both of which make IBM-compatible machines. was speculated, prior to the launch of the IBM Personal Computer in The fourth major Japanese com

puter company is Nippon Electri-cal (NEC), which once had design links with Honeywell,



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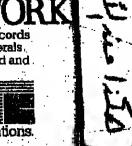




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Lloyd's covers the crime rate

troduced just a year ago. At the same time the policy has been extended from banks to any commer-

The policy covers fraudulent in-put of data to systems run hy a company or a bureau it is using, plus the changing, destruction or theft of data. Fraudulent changes to programs are also included.

On the communications front the policy covers the input of data into electronic funds transfer systems, including networks of point-of-sale terminals or automated teller machines, as well as losses from fraudulent instructiona sent to or from a clearing house

United delays

market date

by Kevan Peerson

by Kevan Peerson

UNITED Leasing, one of the
UK's biggest independent leasing
companies, has appointed Barclays
Merchant Bank to handle its Stock
Market listing after delays over the
move involving United's former
banker, Hill Samuel.

Barclays was appointed last
week, after what Parry Mitebell,
United chairman, said was the
fourth postponement in bringing
his company to the Stock Market.
The final delay, which Mitchell
believes will set the company's
plans back by several months, was
caused by 'a number of minor
points' which could not be cleared
up before the February 21
deadline.

Mischell

Mitchell says there was "heated exchange with Hill Samuel" and both sides decided to pull out of

the relationship. He says problems arose because United is "into leas-

ing, which no one understands, and computers, which no one un-

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On April 15th, British Telecom Research Laboratories are

This is an important update on the highly successful

The most important recent development in the UK has been the announcement of plans for cable TV systems, with

Change of

banker as

by John Kavanagh
A GROWING computer crime rate has led to a complete rewrite of the Lloyd's electronic and cominstructions made by telephone are

"The policy aow offers fairly enmprehenaive eoverage," asid David Nawman, underwriter with the K. F. Alder Lloyd's syndicate which introduced the policy.

He added that the old policy had

been revised after discussions with his firm's elients. "There is certainly a growing awareness among banks and other organisations that they should at least be considering such a policy," he said.

Newman pointed out that existing insurance protected companies against fraud by staff — and insiders are almost always involved, of interference on communic according to Mike Wood, privacy and security consultant at the among users on encryption."



National Computing Centre.
"Tampering with input is the most common way of committing fraud, mainly because it's far easier than changing a program or files," Wood said. "US figures show that 90% of cases involve manipulation of input or output.
There is now a little evidence

of interference on communications lines and there is a lot of activity

6,000 more

Wood said the computer crime rate was clearly growing, if only because the number of systems was increasing. There were more prosecutions than ever before. But it was difficult to talk of statistics because government crime figures did not have a computer crime category. There were 100,000 fraud cases a year and many of them would now involve computing.

A survey at the end of 1981 showed that of the 350 organisations replying, 69 admitted to having suffered from computer crime. The total loss was less than £1 m.

Wood added that users were no longer shy of taking people to court and admitting in public that they had been caught out. "Even the banks now prosecute as a matter of course."

Lamsac for count housing headach

by John Riley THE UK's local go

puter consultacy a cure for headachs a housing authorities or government regular.

The Department of Social Security is dischousing benefits are social security claims a uthorities—and a workload starts an later combat this the Logical Management Services (Line yeloped a Housing later). veloped a Ho age, and ICL is office. on hardware bought a The £7,500 packer.

aiready working on the rebs tes for Wokiering Council, is designed in DRS20 Model 50 and CCIS Colonials

The package, with partial figuration including Model 50, 54 Mbyter of Model 10 worksty about £28,000, set

crap the first two of k

Ben Patterson, & Com

member of the committee

man who co-ordinated in

of the draft report, sad

view of the governments

Conservative group to we the whole thing. But you

ways rely on a velo lating

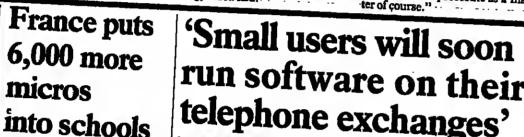
so we are pushing for a

Doug Eyelons, chaires Computing Services Assessed the monopoly amender "all very disappointing".
"We will be intentive lobbying of Buro MPs. For DP opposition will be owner at a meeting of the Buropents.

at a meeting of the European puting Services Associated week," he added. The Forum of Private has

led by Stan Mendham, hard

committee from several sional bodies to campaign



into schools by Jack Gee

FRANCE'S Education Minister, Alain Savary, has announced that 6,000 more microcomputers are to be installed in schools this MITCHELL . . . "Heated exyear, more than doubling the 5,000 already operating in the

micros

He dismissed rumours that Hill Samuel got cold feet over "dodgy accounting practices and discrepancies in the US" This last delay means that the company will now have to have its accounts re-audited if it is to go for

a full listing since the Stock Ex-change will not accept audited re-sults which are over six months

United's year-end results date from September 30, 1982. Mitchell says the plan is now to go for a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market, and to make the transition to a full listing as time

derstanda".

run software on their telephone exchanges' by Donald Kennett

SMALL businesses will soon be running applications software on their telephone exchanges, accordtheir telephone exchanges, according to Merlin Communications technical director John Hearfield.

Speaking at the Oyez International Business Communications conference on PABXs in London list week, Hearfield said that while the head offices of least conservations.

The new computers will be de-livered to primary schools.

The new batch of micros, which will be of simpler design than their predecessors, will be concentrated in areas affected by unemployment. the head offices of large companies could often afford separate specialised systems, small com-panies and branch offices "out in the sticks" where the money was actually made wanted equally sophisticated systems on a far smaller budget.

He was unapologetic about the

unemployment.

The government hopes that access to data processing at an early age in these regions will give youngsters better job npportunities.

About 20,000 teachers are being trained in the use of compu-ters by the Ministry of Education

this year.

A major beneficiary of the school computer programme is Goupil, a French firm which specialises in this market. The company, which recently launched its Gonpil 3 micro, plans to boost its share of the professional users' market in France from 8% to 15% this year.

M Our Parliamentary Correspondences Monte from 8% to 15% this year.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent ndde: Kenneth Baker, Minister for Informetion Technology, has accepted congratulations in the Commons on being the first country to provide a microcomputer in every secondary school.

PABX manufacturers had one or two things going for them in the race. Designing for very high reliability was second nature to them,

"Designers of PABXa have to think of other people first," he said, "Designers of computers

Byery office, no matter how small, needed telephones, he added, and above a certain modest size they needed PABXs to in-terconnect them. Software to run on those that offered data processing facilities would follow their appearance on the market, just as it had followed the appearance of

The liberalised UK market for telecommunications equipment provided many opportunities for small companies, but to compete effectively they would have to offer attractive new features for their

smaller budget.

He was unapologetic about the possibility of his company being confused with British Telecom's new Merlin division, since he claimed to have got there first by soveral months. (BT said there was no prior registration in that name when it registered its company, but accepted that both started using the name in good faith. Discussions were being held to sort out the situation, a spokesman said.) On the users' aide the incentive to buy sophisticated systems came from the universal need to raise office productivity. Smell companies were even more likely than large ones to use sophisticated PABX facilities such as voice mesaging and appointments diaries because they tended to have fewer secretaries to rely on.

Local area networks provided a obvious solution to office oblems because the variety of types and standards made choos-ing between them very difficult.

State cont Systemsolve takes threat irks over Jackson's contractor From froot page. same as permanent set; Reveal to permanent set; qualifications and pryname porary staff, as well a lower

bureau business by John Kavanagh
UK SERVICES group Systemsolve last week took over the
£600,000 bureau business of Jackson Associates, which called in the
receiver two weeks ago. The
takeover has saved 35 of the
bureau's 40 jobs. Jackson's 40strong software operation has already been closed down.
Systemsolve is still on the takeporary stail, as well night contract agencies;

Prevent agencies frame, ing a transfer fee if and worker takes on a pransition with the client;

Make the client with the porary workers were in the contract of the contract Contract firm goes but.

A recent draft read is
Social Affairs and lasts
Committee included Costs
backed amendments with the

WEMYSS . . . Plans to make more takeovers

Systemsolve is still on the takeyer trail. In the last year the 13.2 million turnover group has bough! Athena Software from services company Zeua Hermes and diversified from ICL aystems into Data General, Hewlett-Packard, Computer Technology and Search Most of the users had put up a computer to the computer to the property of the users had put up a computer to the computer to the users had put up a computer to the computer to Computer Technology and Sperry Univac equipment. And director Peter Wemyss said the company was talking to several other firms

sbout takeovera.

The Jackson purchase adds two 2946 medium-sized main-mes and an old Honeywell 6260 in Chichester, to Systemsolve's ICL ME29, 2903 and 2905 bureau operation in Sunbury-on-Thames, near London. All but two of Jack-son's 50 customers say they will try with the new owner.

Those 58 users do not make the business viable," sald We-mys. "Everything is now in the meiting point and over the next two or three months we will decide how best to consolidate.

Systemsolve is 62% owned by the Hunting Gibson shipping and

"We might move some equip-ment to Sunbury and close the Chichester office or even move our

existing bureau to Chichester, for we're short of space in Sunbury. In the meantime we're looking for

Wemyss said 30 of the Jackson

customers were running ledger and payroll systems and the others

had specialist applications. "A lo

of the customers are pressing for new development," he said. "In

£10,000 between them to keep the bureau going over the two

troubled weeks. Peter Owen, man-aging director of food distribution

group Evershed, chaired the achoc user group set up when Jack

son hit problems.
"It's possible that users will get quite a lot of the money back from

the receiver," he said.

Systemsolve had a turnover of £3.2 million in 1982. Wemyss said 1983 looked like being a "bumper year". Even without the addition of the Jackson business the company of the Jackson business the latest the lates

pany was on target for a £4 millio

turnover this year, he said.

more business.

Micromite was set up 18 mon manufacturer.
The first interface to be imp



by Howard Karten 1BM has announced that in future, source listings for certain 1BM systems software will no lunger be available automatically to all IBM

In a letter 10 customers mailed last week, IBM said that under its new practice, "selected" new licensed programs and "selected". new versions and releases of soft-ware would no longer entitle certain eustomers in the source code. The policy, which applies worldwide, may ultimately be ex-

tended to other IBM software produets. Any such restrictions will be determined un a product-by-product basis, according to a The products affected by IBM's

policy change include primari systems software, such as MVS/SF ES 2 version 2 and JES 3 version 2, the VM/XA migration aid, as-sembler H version 2, RMF version 2, TSO extension, Systems Modifications Program Extended, and

a few others.

IBM did aot overlook clever systems programmers in making this policy change: users will be prohibited from disassembling BM load or object code as well to produce something resembling

Although it could seem impos-sible in practice for IBM to enforce or police disassembly, since it leaves no record or audit trail, an IBM apokesman said it would en-force this policy "in the same manner as IBM enforces all its other terms and conditions of agreement

for licensed programs."
New IBM licensed programs, and new releases or versions of existing IBM programs, will carry nne of three classifications: Available with source; available without source; and svailable with source materials on a restricted basis.

said: interfacing user programs and products, making user modifications to the product, and iden-

At the week-end, independent software huuses reacted with a mixture of confusion, consterna ion and uncertainty. Although the policy has been known for a week, several large software houses selling products that might be affected seemed unaware of the policy change.

The Association of Data Processing Service Organisation (Adapso) was meeting its Vendor Relations Committee to discuss the move in

"IBM is out to protect itself against the Japancse," said Admoso president Jerry Dreyer. One veteran Industry observer,

who declined to be named, said, "This policy raises the issue of

Potentially, if systems program ming product houses (those making systems software, as opposed to applications software) do act enter into iron-clad agreemeats with IBM, they will eventually be locked out.

This scenario will mean th consumer of IBM products will have to depend increasingly on the the first place, because anyone familiar with IBM and its products knows that IBM has always put out its share of poor software. Does IBM want you to monitor th ourse not.

Another industry figure com-mented. "My real concern is that all our products rely on knowledge of internals of CICS and IMS which were mercifully left off that list. The trend scares the hell out of me. The idea uf IBM not distributing source code is ex-

FACE TO FACE WITH SYSTEK

"The computer system that ended our four year search was supplied by SYSTEK"

could idantify the four seasons bacause

Gordon Bovis, General Manager, Parts

very few companies that are actually

naturally the demand for parts in different

seasons varies considerably." Commented

SYSTEK because I believe we're one of that

satisfied with our computer operation," the

'We've been very fortunate, I think, with

is in Ely, Cambridgeshira is one of the largest distributors of aculcultural equipment in the UK. It was only two year ago that they installed an inhouse computer system, after four years on a bureau. As suppliers and servicers of agricultural machinery it seemed sensib to further update the areas of stock control, workshop involcing and accounts which had proved to be time consuming and tedious. The computer that ended the

search was supplied by SYSTEK. "The reason the search took so long was because we'd falled to find a company that would write a programma to cater exclusively for our own in house information. Being in the agricultural

Managing Director of Standen's Garvase Drake-Brockman commented. "The reason everything's gone so remarkably smoothly is because right from the beginning we were able to deal directly with the top me I'd say we've gained the full benefits of 5Y5TEK being a company that listens to

Dapartment

"5Y5TEK designed a programme that was virtually tatior-mada. They listened and responded so well that in the end we really felt we'd designed the system ourselves. Addad to this the computer was installed



one week <u>prior</u> to the pre-arranged date and that's something fairly unusual thesi

days." Goldon Boyls explained. With overall sales up by 20% per annum I've found very little indaed to faul with SYSTEK," Gervase Drake-Brockman nmed up "Tire way they carried out the job was absolutely first class. What more

Systak's no obligation advisory service is available to help you plan the computer system that's right for you. Call Paut Harvay

5Y5TEK Limited, HR House, ephone 01-349 2911. Telex 8952836.

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OIDIEN SYSTEMS ARCHITECTS

YSTEK Limited, HR House, 447 High Road torth Finchley London 112 OAZ. Telephone 01-349 2911. Telex 8952956.

As semiconductor devices continued to get cheaper, said Hearfield, office computers would take on increasingly complex tasks until they embraced telephone switching. And PABXs would offer more and more software controlled facilities until those included data processing.

Rither way, the same machine would be doing both jobs. But Computer Weekly, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. Telex: 892084 BISP DISPLAY ADVERTISING

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£200,000 first order for file server firm

Donald Kennett A COMPANY set up to specialise in making network file servers has won a £200,000 initial order for 50 of them during its first week in production.

The company, Southampton-based Micromite Computera, Is developing interfaces to its net-worked file server for Triumph-Adler, which plans to use the system with clusters of Alpha-

tonic microcomputers.

The Micromite file server comes

GRISSETT . . . Co-founder .

ago by four people - Keith Gris-sett, Graham Ross, Mike Beel and Mike Webb - who left an un-named UK Winchester disc drive

with its own coaxial cable based first batch of 50 devices went into local area network, which carries production last week at the 14 data at 625 Kbits per second. Up strong company. About 30 of these to 254 microcomputers can be at lacked to it and they exchange data hopes to be producing 100 a month by the end of March.

SPL International is forming a European group from leading industrial and research bodies to reply to Japan's grand plan to huild a radically different type of computer by 1990. The group is east in the spirit of the government's Alwey report on the Fifth Generation of computers, and is one of the light positive responses to it.

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At the same time six companies including SPL, Pactel and Logica formed a group to concentrate on joint software development with an eye to Fifth Generation.

SPL last year staged the first Fifth Generation conference to be held outside Japan, eod launched its own expert system Sage. Muller admitted that Sage is the kind of product the new group launched product the new group launched by SPL will discuss, but said there would be no conflict of interest. SPL's new group, called In-sight, will focus on two areas: knowledge, based eviters and the

of computers, and is one of the first positive responses to it.

"We need government investment urgently," said SPL Fifth Generation project manager Boh Muller, in a reference to the £350 million that the Aivey report said should be made available for the kind of industry-based research common to Japan.

So far there have been two solid industry responses to Alvey. Imperial Software Technology was launched last aurumn hy Imperial College, National Wearninster Rank, Packel and Tessey to poor

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tion software.
"There is also a feet-on-the ground panel from the IT industry to help manage the group," said

Call for Tory commitment to reform of copyright law

SALESBR

Scicon win

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from Burm

SCICON, the independent a pany formerly owned by his Petroleum, has won a from Burmah Oil to implement oilfield database system.

The first stage has already a completed for £30,000 and had data on wells and platform. Our sub-systems will provide that the quality of crude oil.

Camber kits out

African exchange

PLESSEY Controls will install a £500,000 telephone exchange in the African country of Lesono after winning an international

ME29s in cement

by John Riley
THE effective outlawing of software piracy should go into the
Tory manifesto for the General
Election, says a Conservative com-

Gould fills out its supermini range

faster or more cost-effective than oura," elaims Gould's UK Southern region manager David Moody. 'We already have the world's fastest supermini in the 32/87, now we've got the second fastest too."

Gould's performance figures for the new machines put them between two million Whetstone instructious per second for the low end single processor 32/6705 and 3.2 million for the dual processor 32/6780. The starting price is around £100,000, which gives the basic processor with one Mbyte of main memory, 80 Mbyte Winchester and a tape drive.

ter and a tape drive.

As with the top line Concept 32 machines, the 32/67 CPU uses a

may not be

IT is not clear that the use of the computer must result in an invasion of people's privacy. Winston Churchill feared that the discovery of X-ray photography would spell an end to all human privacy because it could see through walls and clothing, yet nobody would today regard the X-ray as a threat to privacy.

This message will be part of the British Computer Society's Silver Jubilee lecture to be delivered next week by Dr Louis Robinson, IBM director of university relations. The BCS Silver Juhilee is sponsored by Computer Weekly.

Robinson will also discuss machine control of the society of the second secon

machine complexity in his paper entitled "The Challenge of Future Directions in Information Processing". He will argue that certain inherent complexities in information processing cappage he wished

away.

Information processing will always be complex, according to Robinson, but its complexity can be handled by the system or the user. Until now, Robinson of that contends, a great portion of that complexity was handled by the

"But personalised computing domands have created a market demand that a great deal of that computing be absorbed by the computing system itself, thuis making access to the computer system easier for the user."

KNITTING machine make Ca-ber International of Lekeser la placed a £438,000 order with Sa-nefield for a microprocessor-bad aystem to control the "striping" mechaniams on Camber's machines. The processor will k specially adapted to meet Caber's needs from Stonefield's geeral purpose Mini-Micro consistency of the control of University update UNIVERSITY of London Coputer Centre (ULCC) has uponed its data communications never with £70,000 worth of high ped moderns from Thorn EMI. It moderns will give the centre some to a planned network to link different makes of computer so the all UK universities will have seen to ULCC's powerful facilities.

threatened'

ICL has taken a £2 million ords for 12 ME29 systems with 20 DRS 20 terminals from Blue Circle Cement. A national network with links to existing IBM maintains will be formed to speed up order represented. GLC choice

will also discuss tion processing cannot be wished

opportunity to try new technology-such as Viewdata.

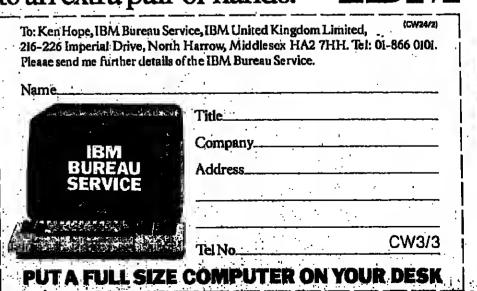
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WORKING FOR BRITAIN'S PUTURE WITH 14,000 JOBS, (420M ANNUAL EXPORTS AND £600M OF INVESTMENTS

by Robert Parry
SUPERMINI maker Gould SEL.
has filled out its range of 32-bit machines in its continuing quest for price/performance leadership in the supermini market.

The 32/67 machines plug the gap between its existing 32/27 and 32/87 models, using the chesper semiconductor technology of the low range 32/27s to implement the high speed architecture of the 32/87s.

four-stage pipeline, overlapping fetch, decode, execute and putaway phases of successive instructions. It has a dual cache memory, with 16 Kbytes each for data and instructions.

Two of these units, which use 2901 bit-slices giving a cycle time of 150 nanoseconds rather than the 32/87's ECL componentry, can be linked through the Selhus system hus. This gives an 80% improve ment in throughput, says Moody

instructions.

Two of these units, which use 2901 bit-slices giving a cycle time of 150 nanoseconds rather than the 32/87's ECL componentry, can be linked through the Selhus system hus. This gives an 80% improvement in throughput, says Moody.

This combination of apeed and price, allied to the continuing software compath hility through Gould's MPX-32 operating system and its Unix implementation, will open up new market areas for Gould and strengthen its position in scientific/technical real time applications.

More than 50% of UK business is atill in simulation, particularly for commercial and military aircraft, says new business manager Chris Wilkes, but he sees aignificant markets coming for Gould in universities and medical electronics, as well as commercial processing.

"We intend to play a very active role in university Unix environ-ments," adds Wilkes.

IBM will push PC harder, says report

The research director for pubishers Strategic Incorporated, Irian Jeffery; says IBM was laken

Brian Jeffery; says IBM was taken by surprise by the PC's runsway success and up to now has been worried about its possible effects on other IBM products.

But the giant will be pushing much harder from now on, Jeffery thinks. A high-end model to compete with Apple's Lisa could be on the drawing boards. And there could also be allowend portable to break into the hobbylst market.

The Lisa challenger would also be Intel-chip based and its software would be competible with

by George Black
A MORE aggressive strategy by type operating system will probputer is forecast in a new report*
this week. And it could announce an IBM-PC2.

that of the present PC. A Unixtype operating system will probpredicted. To boost its market share, IBM will be taking advantage of its size and strength with tage of its size and strength with aggressive pricing and discount policies.

The PCs could be enhanced with high-resolution colour graphics, light pens and a Lisa-style "mouse".

The minimum production level by IBM in 1983 is likely to be a million to a million and a half. By 1985, with the aid of a low-end model, IBM could have captured as much as half of the market, the

A £633,000 contract to supply the Greater London Council with an office automation system has been won by Xionics. The Xious system
will be supplied by Master
Systems of Camberley to County
Hall with 80 workstations. The

Minis for NERC THE Natural Environment Re

search Council has bought two GEC 4000 series 32-hit minis, out for its Institute of Hydrology Wallingford, the other for its head office in Swindon, after evaluating machines from 21 suppliers.

700,000 an how NATIONAL GIRO has ordered

its sixth £300,000 Trace I optical character resider from Recognition Equipment of Slough. It now has a through the same through through the same through the same through the same through the s throughput capacity of over 700,000 documents an hour and it believed to be the largest OCR user in the UK.

specialist programs, and the Do you sometimes ask

IBM'S

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yourself what on earth it was that possessed you to go into the world of computers?

Systems design, coding, program maintenance, project control, installing new software releases ... and now Statutory Sick Pay...your list of responsibilities must seem endless.

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Secondly, we can give you a whole range of productivity aids,

THE FRENCH Commission for Citizens' Protection Against Data Processing says in its annual report that the fast growth of databanks is making it increasingly difficult to ensure that the law on computer files is respected.

The law, passed in 1978, set up the Commission which is composed of parliamentariaus and governinent nonunees with a watchdog role of ensuring that citizens have access to databanks in which their names figure. Police files ore ex-cluded from these provisions.

Senator Jacques Thyraud, a Conservative politician who heads the Commission, said: "Ivery citizen can ohtain access to o file if he has doubts about the legality of the information it contains about him. But our Commission receives only a dozen complaints of

However, the deterrent role of the Commission seems to be confirmed by the fact that so far complaints from citizens have all been satiafied without intervention by the

fied without intervention by the courts.

The law requires all databased lists of names to be registered with the data processing commission. Only 30,000 were registered by the deadline at the end of 1981. Since then 100,000 others have been added, indicating increased respect for the law as well as the creation of new databanks.

It has also imposed restrictions on the government's new file aimed at combatting terrorists, limiting this to about 20,000 people instead of the original target of over two million set by the police.

Commenting on the difficulties faced in protecting the citizen from databanks, the report says: "It will become more and more difficult

France's data privacy law bans references in files to individuals' successfully in recent months to protect citizens' rights against the State. It bas ensured that the file of people liable to pay the newly created wealth tax on fortunes over £300,000 is not extended to those who might later enter this bracket.

it has also imposed restrictions



data processing commission. As processing commission. As processing commission. As adding at the end of 1981. Since Adding at the end of 1981. Since Added, indicating increased respect for the law as well as the creation of new databanks. Senator Thyraud says in the Commission's third annual report: "Each person in France figures in about 500 files." And Commission in Prance figures in about 500 files." Sometime of over two mandal police. Commenting on the difficulties for the individual to get loat in the crowd. Like a pinball he will keep bouncing against new barriers which will trigger signals. Our job is to make sure that the data tracks do not meet." Commenting on the difficulties for the individual to get loat in the crowd. Like a pinball he will keep bouncing against new barriers which will trigger signals. Our job is to make sure that the data tracks do not meet." Commenting on the difficulties for the individual to get loat in the crowd. Like a pinball he will keep bouncing against new barriers which will trigger signals. Our job is to make sure that the data tracks do not meet." Commenting on the difficulties for the individual to get loat in the crowd. Like a pinball he will keep bouncing against new barriers which will trigger signals. Our job is to make sure that the data tracks do not meet." Commenting on the difficulties for the individual to get loat in the crowd. Like a pinball he will keep bouncing against new barriers which will trigger signals. Our job is to make sure that the data tracks do not meet." Commenting on the difficulties for the individual to get loat in the crowd. Like a pinball he will keep bouncing against new barriers which will trigger signals. Our job is to make sure that the data tracks do not meet." Computer gives police the 'tip-off'

processing system is big

Fleetwood and at offices in locaster, Blackpool, Accrington Preston. Value of the whole dail about £81,500.

operating their own authors' dealer schemes.

Finally, the conference will be

BT too would gain. Bessley went outside his remit to recommend competition in transmission and awitching as well. This would make it easier to regulate BT's activities in the in-terests of consumers, he said, as well as providing a choice of price

THE GOVERNMENT is making great play of its careful consideration of the moves towards an open

Earlier this month it published

the findings of an independent re-port on how ro regulate the activi-ties of British Telecom when it

becomes a private company with a

The report, by Professor
Stephen Littlechild of Birmingham University, reaches similar
conclusions to the report two years
ago by Professor Michael Beesley
of the London Business School.

Beesley was asked to study to what

extent companies' rights to sell ser-vices based on circuits leased from BT should be limited in the in-

terests of the consumer and of

BT's cootinued viability.

and quality packages.
In presenting his arguments Beesley made several references to a book called *Blements of Telecom-*munications *Economics* written in 1979 by Littlechild.

It's a bit like wrestling with an octopus. But if there were no such things as British standards, it would be a charter for

importers.

Littlechild's task in his recent report was to determine the best means of regulating BT. Beesley had said this would be easier to do a the presence of some competi-ion, Littlechild said that providing more competition was by far the most effective way of doing it. He also had to consider bow to maximise the proceeds from the sale of BT shares, encourage effi-

cient and innovative telecommuni-cation systems and satisfy all reasonable demands for services. He concluded that the best way to do all these was to create more competition. This should be done by allowing resale of private circuit capacity, telephony on cable televi-sion networks, more radio networks when the spectrum became svaliable, more terrestrial and as-tellite networks if they used different techniques from BT and its nyal private network Mercury, and by allowing Mercury to have switched international connec-

But this competition would not protect the consumer from exploi-tation while BT still had a dominant market position. So in the short term Littlechild recommended that the prices for the services that most affected small business and residential users be pessed below inflation for at least live years.

be the subject of an announcement by the end of April, and resale will go ahead on terms and timescales sition, or is introducing change at a rate that allows each step to be understood before going on to the to be discussed with BT and other

When the Beesley report was presented, BT and its staff unions were horror-struck at the prospect of network capacity being resold by customers with private networks. It was felt that such a move would undermine BT's ability to fund the modernisation of its on the licence is plant.

Govt seeks right way

to regulate telecomms

Donald Kennett reports on the efforts to liberalise telecommunications

Two years later BT merely says resale will create pressure for ac-celerated tariff rebalancing — the raising or sustaining of local call prices while the long distance call charges which have been subsidis-ing them fell. ng them fall.

He concluded that it was in the the government's plans has now become a diffuse opposition to the whole range of denationalisation and deregulation activities which affect a number of industries and consumer's interest to allow comto BT from this would be small. If the principle were carried progrea-sively into international circuits, which can only be resisted effectively by changing the governmen

at the next election.

Paradoxically industrial action would be likely to weaken the protesters' position by accentuating the desirability of alternative sources of supply. Once alternative sources were set up, action against the dominant supplier would sti-mulate demand for them as nothing else could.

Information Technology Minis ter Kenneth Baker has called th ter Kenneth Baker has called the licensing of Mercury one of the most important decisions this government has made. Even before starting up, he says, it has prompted BT to cut its long distance call charges and to improve the efficiency of its operation

tion.

The Telecommunications Bill now going through Parliament is intended to free BT from government constraints on how it raises funds for investment and how it makes its policy decisions. The reasoning is that governments, with competing demands on their budgets, may easily underestimate the amount of investment needed in an important area like telecomin an important area like telecom munications and will find it hard to make a large investment

will have a payback period longer than the election cycle.

It is also argued that rapid progress cannot be made without taking risks and that risk investment on a significant scale is inap-propriate to a government-backet propriate to a government-h

To prepare for operation on a commercial basis, BT has reorganised itself into about 90 profit centres, 60 of which are sales areas and the rest more specialised services such as Prestel, the Packet Switch Stream data network, telex and facsimile transmission. This will force each part of the business to operate as a revenue generating charges instead of es a monollit providing a range of interdepen dent services.

In the long run these may b come separate companies each raising their own capital and mak-ing their own investments. It is already in prospect that the areas will do their own local purchasing and may charge different prices from each other for similar products or services.

Meanwhile Littlechild has pro-

Pessed below inflation for at least live years.

The government rejected the idea of allowing telephony on cable after a fallowing telephony on cable BT or Mercury were involved, and decided that BT and Mercury would still be the only organisations to provide links between cable networks.

Meanwhile Littlechild bas proposed more competition from new suppliers cutside BT, but the government is holding back from going all the way. It is unclear whether it bas doubts about the safety of going to completely open competition in all areas, is respecting the wishes of its opponents to specific change, is keeping everyone guessing so as to weaken the oppo-

Baker, for example, has been chicised for failing to publish the licence that will be issued to BT while the Bill under which it will in plain language. Waiting until it is put into legal language will, he claims, only make it more difficult

He has also been accused of set-ting up prohibitively expensive procedures for approving equip-ment to be attached to the net-work. His colleague John Butcher answered that by saying that the Department of Industry was get-

ting quotes from approval ogencies in West Germany, Canada and the US on their test fees. "I have yet to

Complaints, he said, had mostly come from very small importers. Standards for testing egainst were taking a while to implement because it was necessary to obtain cunsensus in the committees discussing them. "It's a bit like wrestling with an octopus," Butcher said. "But if there were no such things as British atandards, it would be a charter for important."

would be a charter for importera."

There had been 32 approvals given so far under the new procedures, Baker said, including 11 for devices made in the UK, six for devices being modified bere.



COMPULER WEEKLY February 24 1983

Will British Telecom retain its dominance?

Third party vendors get own conference

BUYING in hardware and soft-ware products then selling to the end user is the subject of a confer-end user is the subject of a conference being organised by Computer
Weekly in April.

The conference is for so-called

third party vendors - the systems terest manufacturers as ad a houses, OEMs, software houses, distributors, dealers and retailers which buy in from a manufacturer or supplier and market to the end there. It will cover the value to call user. It will cover the ways to sell, the level of post-sales support to offer, the right product to choose for the right market, and the use of advertising and direct mail.

Both conference and exhibition are the result of collaboration by Computer Weskly and sister journals Systems International, Practical Computing and Software.

One of the highlights of the pro-

are shown in the advertisement a To reserve a place or get details

of exhibiting or visiting the Computer Trade Show simply dip is coupon in the advertisement is contact the organisers at The Computer Trade Show and Code ence, Surrey House, Throwing Way, Sutton, Surrey SMI 400. Tel: 01-643 8040.

Market for DBMS to hit \$1.7 bn

by George Black

THE world market for database management systems will grow to \$1.75 billion by 1987, says an American report.*

Five vendors account for more than two-thirds of the traditional market at present.

market at present - IBM is much the biggest, with Cullinane and Clincoln vying for second place, followed by Intel and Software AG. The smaller market for non-procedural DBMS-based ianguages is being dominated by Mathematica Products Group with a 22% share, the report says.

Runners up at present are In

Runners up at present are Information Builders with 18% and Infodata Systems with 12%.

Traditional DRMS packages for mainframe use will decline to two-thirds of the market in the next four years, it is forecast.

thirds of the market in the next four years, it is forecast.

Programs for desk-top machines will bave taken more than a tenth of the cake by then, Annual compounded growth of 31% is foreseen for independent companies writing DBMS packages.

The DBMS Marketales, International Data Corporation's Software and Services Information program, Seess Street, Prantingson, Massesparin, US, 2, 500.

CDC gives micros to colleges

by Howard Karten CONTROL DATA last week # nounced a \$6 million giveswey a Model 110 eight-bit microcompeters and some Plato software.

The company will give use a compa

the micros and some of its Plat maths and science course to each of 110 colleges which to be required to submit to CDC plan for integrating the Plate led nology into their curricula. The colleges will also be required a develop plans to transfer the tennology to secondary schools and community groups by Octobe

Upon approval of the plan, CDC will give each school free additional micros and some additional CDC has a strong reputation

"a company with a social conscience", and CDC president Wil liam Norris has long been terested in applying technology the betterment of various groups.
CDC has spent more than \$1 billion over the past 20 years of veloping Plato, which is an exist sive set of computer-assisted instruction materials. instruction materials.

adj. belonging to a specified place

n. defined space for particular use

MEDWORK

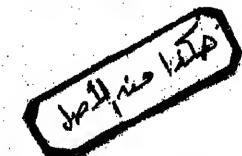
n. a chain of interconnected people or operations

Few people agree with the dictionary, especially those in data processing.

But as a leading supplier of the technology, ICL are now running a series of one-day seminars on the principles and concepts involved for management and computer professionals alike.

So if you'd like a definition that's straight from the horse's mouth, make sure you're there.

The next seminar will be held in Manchester on 9th March: RH1 8PN. Tel: 0734-581258.



Fee: £85 plus VAT (includes coffee, lunch, tea and full set of notes).

Book quoting course code ULAN/6 at ICL Beaumont, Old Windsor, Windsor, Berks SL42JP. Tel: 07535-51483.

For queries regarding content/ administration, contact Nigel Tout or Trish Wright at ICL Forum, Bridge House, Reading, Berks





Wembley Conference Centre April 26-28 1983...

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Called the Computer Trade Conference, the event runs alongalde Computer Weekly's recently announced Computer Trade Show at the Wembley exhibition and conference centre. Dates are April 26-27 for the conference, and April 26-28 for the show. Computer packages at all auccessful examples which cake Full details of the program

Beware micros, says FT report

costing companies dear. Keith Bedell-Pearce, author of the Financentrearce, author of the triman-cial Times management report in computers and information tech-nology*, warns that widespread introduction of personal comput-ing in many busingsees is costly ing in many businesses is costly and inefficient, and that the luid-den costs of programming bump up the price of "cheap" personal emputing to unacceptable levels.

"Senior management are being asked to make substantial financial commitments on inicrocomputer purchases," says Bedell-Pearce. Even worse, they are sometimes not even asked at all, with the micros being managerial impulse buys out of petty cash. Many large organisations have no clear idea of the number of individual comput-ing facilities they have under their

Users without computer exper-

to computing, he continues, which compounds the problems. Security of information is compromised, and limitations appear on the growth of the systems to match more ambitious user require-

Bedell-Pearce urges a more cau-tious approach to substantial investments in office automation, pointing out that most suppliers are unlikely to survive in the market for long.

Companies should form a group view of how personal com-puting should be provided for those that want it he believes. The approach will vary from company to company, but for most large organisations Bedell-Pearce advocutes the provision of personal computing packages on mainframes rather than a multiplicity of

of the personal computing people, imposing what they consider the undue restrictions of professional DP departments, and getting things arranged so that you can harness their enthusiasm," says

starting to offer the management seeking access to personal comput-ing a choice: take the packages on a mainframe, with the advantages of access to eorporate databases and all the housekeeping and maintenance taken care of but without much user friendliness; or go it alone with a recommended microcomputer, taking care of the housekeeping and putting up with restricted dats capacity and limited communications with other users.

There are eases when it is elearly better to go with a standa-lone microcomputer," he adds,



BEDELL-PEARCE . . . Micros may be costly and inefficient.

"but there is still a need to fix oo a common system."

The report aims to offer a layman's guide to all aspects of computing, and is an updated edition of the report first published in 1979. The new sections cover the areas of office automation, personal computing, word processing, local area networks and informa-

downfall, it claimed that the Dragon's 32K of RAM made it at

least twice as powerful as its compeutors, which upset a member of the public wbo pointed out that the Sinclair Spectrum was avail-

16K machine referred to in

Dragon's comparisons.

Rank Xerox fell foul of the ASA

through an offer of a free cassette

tion technology in general.

There is also a contractual briefing, where Bedeli-Pearce covers what users should seek in compu-

*Computers & Information Technology: the Essentials, Financial Times Business Information Ltd, Bracket House, 10 Can-non Street, London EC4P 4BY, Tel: 01-248 8000, 195.

Televideo's new-look terminal for Europe

TELEVIDEO Systems in to recomplete the control of t

fan.

The CRT screen can display is or 132 characters to the line, was choice of two character sets not time. There are eight difference in the terminal firmware, and or the terminal firmware, and or the country he had a few times. two of these can be loaded for the mediate access. The keyboars completely soft, allowing there to define special character au i

The basic terminal comes with Z80A processor sod 64Kg nemory, containing all the is-formation needed to set commo nications links, screen sizes, che acter sets and so on from the keyboard. The terminal will end late those from other makers.

MOS circuits joint company

UNITED Technologiea, AEG-Telefunken and Diehl group are to concentrate activities in de-ware packages, Package Program veloping, producing and mar-keting cuatom MOS circuits in a jointly formed company, Eurosil Electronics.

Eurosil Electronics will take over the present activities of Diehl's Eurosil subsidiary, formed in 1972 to supply ICs to the watch and clock industry, and for instruments and telecommunications, Diehl will have a minority interest in Eurosil Electronics.

PPL into micro software

last week by managing discus Roy Taylor. "The idea is to make whole range of 16-bit more usable as intelligent terminals, k said. PPL will adapt some of its own software to meet the change market, as well as buying in a number of packages from smal-British software bouses.

Five micro firms' adverts in trouble

showed three software packages that needed the 16K RAM extencompanies. Complaints lodged in December against five of them were upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority, with Dragon, Rank Xerox and Olivetti joining the hardy perennials Acorn and Sinclair.

The complaints against Sinclair

showed three software packages that needed the 16K RAM extension, lut neglected to point this soin, lut neglected to poi

Micro News is compiled by Robert Parry

SOFTWARE FILE

Tool factory computerises for survival

by George Black
A TYNESIDE machine tool factory with £200,000 to invest in modernisation has opted for a computerised management systam.

The main problem for Stewart-Warner's paper-passing tasks. But after the first year of running the system Holmes claims 30% improvement in productivity.— a £500,000 saving, with a 20% reduction in inventory.

pumps, was one of too many parts. Manufacturing director John Holmes admitted that a firm John Holmes admitted that a firm with a £5 million namual turnover struggling to make a profit should not have some 13,000 patts to keep track of. But there was not enough money available to carry out the radical redest u of the whola open the ideal solution.

Most of their machines are ten to 15 years old, some even prewar. To replace the lot was a track of the replace the lot was a track of the replace the lot was a track. The bureau aervice we used was okay for some jobs, such as contings, but was no good for general planning. The source the lot was a track of their machines are ten to 15 years old, some even prewar. To replace the lot was a track of their machines are ten to 15 years old, some even prewar. To replace the lot was a track of the lot was a track of the lot was a track of the lot was not enough.

Most of their machines are ten to 15 years old, some even prowar. To replace the lot was out of
the question. Once Britain's
largest undertaking oils kind, under the name of Armstrong
Whitworth, which employed
about 70,000 workers, it was
bought by an American concerns
and has in recent years been hard
his year the recent years been hard
his year t

with a 20% reduction in inventory

Management services manager Norman Massey commented,

The complaints against Sinclair both covered ZX81 adverta. One concerned the availability of software for the machine: the advert cassette recorder. Several popular cassette recorders are incompatible with the ZX81, and the ASA says that Sinclair should make it clear in the adverts that this is the case.

Acom's trouble was with incompatible peripherals, too. This time it was television sets and the Atom. its advertising said that any UHF colour or monochrome TV would do, whereas several were not compatible with the Atom. the public wbo pointed out that the Sinclair Spectrum was avail-able in a 48K version as well as the patible with the Atom.

Dragon and Olivetti were in

trouble for misleading compari-aons. Olivetti's problem was a comparison chart that gave an average system price for the M20, tried out the Xerox 820 II in a plour display version in the advt.

Memory size was Dragon's but failed to make it plain that the £2,395 quoted was not for the colour display version in the advt.

McGLADDERY . We will mick with UBC.

System to predict staff needs

by George Black

A MANPOWER moderling system which mirrors the highly successful financial modellers has been developed by the Institute of Manpower Studies.

The package, called Prospect 2, is a computer model for predicting personnel needs. The specification personnel needs. The specification was worked out by a team from the IMS, Shell, the Wellcome Foundation, BP, the Department of Health and Social Security and the Trustee Savings Bank. The program was written for the IMS by Bernard Weyman, formerly database researcher in the Department of Computer Science at London University's Birkbeck College.

The system is now available in three unduframe versions and on I. P. Sharp Associates' Canada-based Filetab stays with DEC

SPECIALIST software house Filetah Support is to stick to working on DEC hardware.

Itime-sharing network. Trials are now taking place on a scaled-down micro version, which it is hoped will be available by May. The linked to Control Data machiness, will be available by May. The support is to stick to working on DEC hardware.

SIA has been strong in the sector over the past decade.

SIA has been strong in the sector over the past decade.

SIA has been strong in the sector over the past decade.

SIA has been strong in the sector over the past decade.

SIA has traditionally been will be available by May. The linked to Control Data machiness, by Des Watson, a researcher in Sussex University's computer.

Sussex University's computer is being carried out by Des Watson, a researcher in towards IBM. This mouth Room is being carried out by Des Watson, a researcher in the past decade.

CARSOLISSON OF THE PARTY OF THE

US database system aims at UK public sector sales

A MAJOR US database manage ment system which has made a ba through into the public sector.

The system is Focus, which we developed by Information Builder

developed by Information Builder, of New York during the midSeventies. Since 1976 it has been offered in this country on a bureto basis by Tymshare. In 1981
Tymshare's sales director Peter Scawen left to become managing director of IBI's offshoot Information. Builders (IK), which has tion Builders (UK), which has been selling Focus as a package.

ernment'a CISI bureau. Scawar said that SIA would be a valuable new outlet for the system



A unique opportunity

system, in an unbeatable package deal based on the super-compact 3210 system.

interactive response, there's a vast range of time-saving O/S-linked utilities.

Perkin-Elmer offers fully supported 32-bit UNIX*, probably the world's best timesharing

Application development is exceptionally easy and fast, performance is optimised for good

The world's first 32-bit UNIX implementation was on a Perkin-Elmer machine at Bell Labs by Ritchie/Thompson.

Completely standard Edition VII UNIX Rapid response for up to 32 users Memory expandable up to 4MB Disc capacity greatly expandable

Educational users:

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Hardware

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All this for just

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For more facts, contact Fred Mascarenhas on Slough (0753) 34511, or complete the coupon.

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32-Bit UNIX?

Here's what you get:

Commercial users:

Hardware

64MB disc

8 user ports

Software

Model 3210 cpu

512KB memory

8MB/sec throughput

Dual bus architecture

Full screen editor

Word processor

All this for just

FORTRAN 77

PASCAL

BASIC

Edition VII+ UNIX (binary)

Berkeley enhancements

"UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories

*Edition VII is a product of Wollangong Group Inc.

£34,500

Source Code Control System

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	10 A 17			

Televideo to offer 15% of stock for a record £112m

THOSE who thought Clive Sin-clair's overnight conversion to a value of £135 millium was spectacu-

lar, should prepare themselves for what Philip Hwang of Televideo hopes to achieve soon.

US brokers L. F. Ruthschild, Unterberg Towbin, in association with Robertson Coleman and Stephens and Shearson American Stephens and Shearson American Express, are planning to offer just 15% of the Televideo stock for a record \$112.5 million.

After the offcring Hwang will still own 68% of Televideo, and that will be worth about \$450 million.

The company is only six years old having been founded in 1977 and it had sales of under \$1 million

in that year.
By 1980 turnnyer had shot up to \$12.6 million as Hwang expanded his product lines and consulidated the business, but the speciacular growth came between 1981 and 1982, when turoover tripled and Televideo ended 1982 with sales of

Profits have grown alungside revenues to reach \$12.7 milliun in

Televideo is best known as a terminal manufacturer and supplier, but has recently been building and aupplying a range of 8-bit and 16-bit small business

From the offer document pro-duced for the share placing it is clear that the amplification of the



Televideo lines with the small husiness systems is what has given the company its stidden access to a 200% growth path.

Between 1979 and 1982 Televideo shipped over 200,000 terminals and Hwang reckous the company is onw the leading supplier of terminals to the non-IBM mar-

shipment is rising dramatically.

It took 18 months to ship 20,000 micros, but in December alone the company shipped 10,000 terminals

According to Hwang the company has now shipped a total of 20,000 micros, and the pace of

HWANG . . . To join the instant millionaires club

and 3,000 micros.

Hwang says that in 1983 revenues from the micro sales will

And Televideo has benefited from Hwang's Korean background. According to the pros-pectus Televideo's success arises from simple, easy-to service designs, with most of the production carried out in Korea.

The prospectus carries no ecasta, but analysts in New York expect Televideo to maintain growth it has already achieved maybe even better it.

Dragon fires up for bigger profits

A FORECAST turnover this year of £35 to £45 million will make Glamorgan-based Dragon Data one of the largest microcomputer companies in the UK to date.

The forecast is based on current

production of over 4,000 eight-bit Oragon microa each week, and demand which Dragon managing director Tony Clarke describes as "insatiable". Sales for Dragon -part of which was sold off by parent Mettoy last year - were £3 million to the end of December

The company has not released official figures yet, but Clarke suggests that profit for last year will be between £200,000 and £300,000. He believes that profits of between £3 and £4 million are possible for

place Dragon in the forefront of successful British micro companies

he coming year.
Growth at this speed would

and would even outpace the record set by the Osborne 1 of going from zero to \$70 million worth of sales zero to \$70 million worth of sales in 14 months. Only Apple in its early days equalled this kind of running. But the success of Dragon is likely to add further fuel to ill-feelings in the City over Mettoy's sale of the company.

Mettoy, which had turnover of

Mettoy, which had turnover of £25 million last year mostly in toys, had losses of £2.7 million in

Last December Mettoy sold 81% of Dragon for just £900,000, although the company retained the right to buy back 17% of Dragon at the price it sold the shares. The row over the sale centred on

the fact that a number of City financial institutiona felt that Mettoy sold out too cheaply — and ot the wrong time. However Chris Radmore, the broker handling Mettoy's affairs at stockbrokers L. Measel and Co, said that there was no way Metroy could afford to provide the money for the Dragon development. Messel is currently handling a cash-raising exercise hy

Mettoy, aimed at security is funds of £3.7 million for its call. Radmore said that so it is has heen no problem plant stock with underwriter. Clarke says that Dragon it

toy's best asset and the it is surprising Messel has had a problem finding takers.

A rough calculation based a prohabic profit at Dragond; million would make 3% at stock worth about file at living ion, on a cooventional base. lion, on a cooventional beat valuation of the company and

times annual earnings.
In practice valuations have very much higher than the



Canadian giant's \$285m for R&D

CANADIAN giant Northern
Telecom is planning to up both
R&D spending and capital investment this year, says chairman
Walter F. Light.

systems and to improve NT'a
newly-announced open protocolcuthanced network products.

The increased capital spending
will give NT 377,000 as ft of new

He told a group of undustry analysts in Boston that NT would spend \$285 million on R&D in 1983, an 18% advance on 1982, and close to 9% of corporate revenues — a slightly lower figure than that spent by many US corporations. (ICL, with turnover icss than half of NT's is spending 15% of turnover on R&D). of turnover on R&D).

Much of the R&D spend is in-

Light told the analysis that NT expected only modest revenue growth in 1983.

Despite the cautious words, however, Light still expects 1983 to show the heat year-to-year

The increased capital spending will give NT 377,000 aq.ft of new labs in Ottawa and a 50% increase in the size of the PBX at Santa Clara, California to 240,000 sq.ft.

Non-telecommunications pro-ducts account for about 11% of NT's business and the company has been trying to diversify into general purpose office dam proces-sing for some time, so far at some cost and with no profits to show

Light expects the integrated office systems operations to make s solid contribution in 1983, despite

US analysts recommend Comserv

IN LINE with forecasts by Com-serv president Ted Priem of turnover this year of \$40 to \$50 million, American analysts are recommending the company's shares to their clients.

Priem made his prediction when he was in the UK recently to

launch the Comserv MRP! Manufacturing Resource Planning software and to announce a series of large orders for the product.

The new orders are for the com-The new orders are for the complete Comaery Advanced Accounting and Production System which will be installed at German chemical giant Hoechst.

So far Comsery Rurope has sold over \$3 million worth, more than the entire company sold in its first

billion.

The Rock spend is increase in profits to three years in the entire company sold in its first three years in the US, according to Stewart McIntosh, Comserv Blumpagn vice position. the entire company sold in its first three years in the US, according to

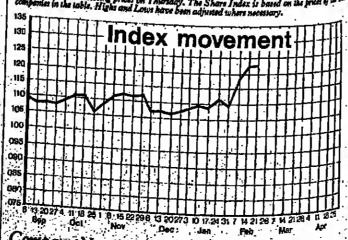
In 1981 Comserv had a total turnover of \$17.6 million and for 1982 that figure is expected to he \$24 to \$25 million.

million by 1986. While growth at Comsen k The analysis at US atockhrokera outperformed the software into Shearson American Express forecast that that figure will rise to try norm of 19% over the park

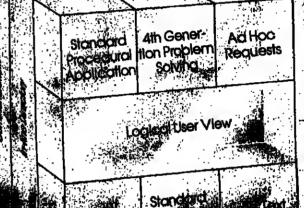
SHARES TABLEI

The shares table, which is specially compiled for Computer Weekly, then selected computer companies that reflect the state of the computer industry.

	363	Stock	1		1987			_
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Company News is compiled by Kevin Cahill



The biggest

software

innovation

since

database

TIS is a unique product

Conceived and built to

professional programmer and

TI\$ Is 4th generation data base

relational view and relational

TIS is an entirely new

Information handling system.

apart from any other system is

LUV gives the user a

One of the major innovations which sets TIS

its Logical User View

relational view of data.

strategies or physical

locations.

completely insulating user

programs from the DBMS;

data structures, accessing

locations. Users no longer

need to know file types or

component (LUV).

concept - an entirely new

architecture, completely

apart from any previous

Systems to meet the needs of

demanding the complete

requirements of both the

technology combining

structures with high

performance.....

developed by Cincom

large scale IBM users

solution to information

meet the specific

processing.

end user -

Using just four vertes. GET", "INSERT", UPDATE and "DELETE", two dimensional relational views are delivered to the users.

The result is faster and simpler application development and no further need for program changes due to alterations in hardware, software or data storage.

Also by insulating user Interfaces from the physical environment, LUV simplifies the use of high level facilities -TIS batch and on-line Intelligent Query, TIS 4th generation application development system, TIS

Batch Retrievals and TIS support for conventional programming.

TIS is compatible with Cincom's range of DB/DC products currently installed by over 5,000 DBM\$ users

For more information, details of seminars or a demonstration please contact Jackie Duncan. Marketing Services, Cincom Systems (UK) Ltd.,

Maidennead. SL610S.

Sephone: (0628) 72781 Telex: 847198. Or contact our Manchester office.

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Cincom Systems

Govt seeks way to regulate telecomms

Another 17 were being prepared for testing. Most of the devices are telephonea, but seven of them have built-in moderns and one of the devices is an autodialler.

Baker believes that competition in networking will come at a much faster rate to the UK than it has done to the US. By 1990 he betraffic will be carried by BT's com-petitors, whereas in 1979, 10 years after competition was introduced in the US, only 4% of the traffic was being carried by ATACPA was being carried by AT&T's

have succeeded in increasing monopoly power rather than reducing it. Annual hearings have been ineffective and time-consuming. There has been a trend towarda pegging price linereases to some form of index of inflation, and there has been increasing pressure to relax or abandon regulation.

The results that would he resigned of any scheme of regulation of the UK telecommunications of Telecommunications could reduce BT's tariffs on local, trunk or

market would be to protect con-sumers and small businesses from exploitation by a dominant BT, to

competitors. This is accelerating now and the UK will be hard pressed to catch up, hut Baker likes to look on the hright side.

On the equipment supply side it will be much faster, as demonstrated by three in dependent suppliers of teleprinters who have cut heavily into the market since it was opened to them last September.

One of the causes of Baker's optimism is the belief that the UK can learn from the US experience of regulating the market.

Littlechild says that despite having ample powers to extract and analyse information and consider. trated by three independent suppliers of teleprinters who have cut heavily into the market since it was opened to them last September.

One of the causes of Baker's optimism is the belief that the UK can learn from the US experience of regulating the market.

Littlechild says that despite having ample powers to extract and analyse information and considerable discretion in approving tariff structures and rates of return, regulators of various US markets

the regulation as light as possible, altered and amendments will have to be made to the Telecommunications Bill. The Bill has already spent 110 make one of them workable. Instead he found that almost any scheme for controlling BT's prices or profits would share the disadvantages of the US methods. They would increase the risks of investment and discourage efficiency and innovation.

None would be as effective in attaining the above results as having no explicit constraints—px-gulators of various US markets

The government had been considerable in the regulation as light as possible, attended and amendments will have to be to be Telecommunications Bill.

The Bill has already spent 110 hours in the committee stage because the disadvantages of the US markets of investment and discourage efficiency which will limit the rest of the disadvantages of the US methods. They would increase the risks of investment and discourage efficiency which will limit the rest of the disadvantages of the US methods. They would increase the risks of investment and discourage efficiency which will limit the rest of the disadvantages of the US markets of profecting on a stead he found that almost any sections Bill.

The Bill has already spent 110 the case of investment and discourage in partial methods. They would increase the risks of investment and discourage efficiency which will limit the rest of the disadvantages of the US markets of profession to another 65 hours.

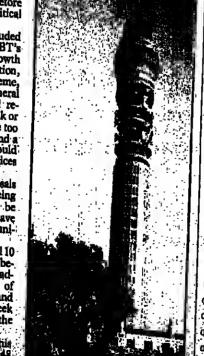
The tregulation as light as possible.

The Bill has already spent 110 to be to be reduced to the Telecommunications Bi

much profit on any of them; and a profit ceiling scheme, which would trigger an investigation of prices by the Director General.

Adopting Littlechild's proposals will mean that the licence being prepared for BT will have to be altered and amendments will have to be made to the Telecommunication.

of Telecommunications could reduce BT's tariffs on local, trunk or international services if it made too much profit on any of them; and a



compenies in the table. Highs and Lows have been adjusted where necessary.

Making the most of an emergency

IT IS nice to see that the series we published on computer disasters has not been ignored by the industry. Several disaster recovery ser-

vices have been set up, and re-cently two more joined the throng. They serve different sectors of the market, one from Anglo American Computing Services being aimed at minicomputer users.
The other, a multi-million

systems and Atlantic Computer Leasing, Europe's largest IBM leasing house, is aimed at main-frame IBM users.

The difference in scale of the two services is reflected in the mode of operation. Anglo offers a mobile recovery service, damaged hardware being replaced with the nearest equivalent on-site. The service was launched late last year with a Hewlett-Packard 3000. Two Digital Equipment 1978 14 Digital Equipment PDP-11s are on order, with Vax to follow later and IBM 4300 Series after that.

"We have had a lot of enquiries from IBM sites," says Anglo's managing director Peter Maxwell Users subscribe to the Anglo service for £2,000 a year in the case of Hewlett-Packard hardware, or £2,400 if they want the DEC PDP-11 cover. This price includes an insurance policy supplied by Eagle Star to cover transport and other

The BL service, being for much larger hardware, is necessarily immobile and more expensive. So it cannot cover when a computing facility is needed on-site such as for some real time applications.

But it is comprehensive, and fast to enact, with BL guaranteeing an almost immediate transfer of service to its site when a client's computer fails. So far the service, called Pailsafe, has an IBM 3033 AP, and there are plans to install a

Prices range from £40,000 a year for a limited service, to £120,000 for full cover.

needed, and a trial to show that the system works. "They know hey've got a working service when

Failsafe provides the user with a parallel computing service with transfer of files taking a matter of moments. The user then has the IBM mainframe with several thousand square feet of computer room floor dedicated to his processing.

Meanwhile Anglo has dealt with its first live disaster. Market Locations of Leamington Spa had its solitary Hewlett-Packard 3000 Series 44 scorcbed by arsonists on January 17, with disc drives burnt

The computer was a vital part of the consultancy service. Several applications included calculating how salespeople should best orga-nise their visits, and making statistical analyses.
Anglo sent in its HP 3000 Series

3, a machine compatible with the 44. Well, almost compatible — For this the user gets consultation on telecommunications

And Anglo found a sad lack of emergency lighting in its van, so had to use torches to unload the



Computers are playing an increasingly important part in rural Australia.

Farmers beat the drought by computer

AUSTRALIAN cattle functions of the receiving under one of the droughts since their normal deported from British 1 in ago. But the effects are book gated by computer process.

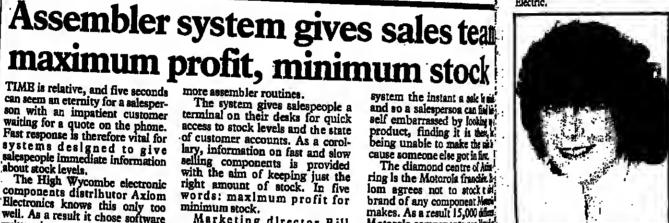
gated by computer prometed at Melbourne Using for analysis of herd data.

Farmers can receive this the feeding requirement of health hints by submitted monthly reports on the control of their cows.

■ Lioael Greeo, who was manag-ing director of Grandmet Informa-tion Processing from 1973 to 1980, has been appointed associate direc-tor of AGB Recruitment. "It costs the farmer All me to join, and A\$1.90 per one year," says Dr Lance Poling university's department of a nary clinical sciences. After years he is receiving a man about A57 for each distinyeated." is methematics at Hatfield Polytechnic, is to join the staff of the Charles Babbage Institute as associate director. His duties will include working with archival and database analysis programs.

In fact computers are mailike wildfire through Asmid agriculture. There is a Aksig project to computerise mily duction, also a videoter arms bring market information by farmers. Alm has appointed Karl Keagar as sales manager. He joined the company in 1981 as Southern sales Meanwhile Australia's les

M Howard Hickling has been ap-pointed sales engineer, Midlands and the North, at Dowty Circuits. He was previously with Welwyn



Management consultancy firm Howard Tilly Associates has ap-pointed Richard Spooner and David Farnan as directors. Spooner has been chief accountant Jayae Guli (above) has joined Care Consulting as technical consultant, manufacturing systems. For the past three years she has worked for Hoskyns as a programmer, technical consultant and unject controller.

Prime Computer has expanded its UK sales force with two new sppointments. Adrian Coppola, who joins the North-east and Scotish branch, was formerly with NCR Senior sales executive for oil sales is Peter Irwin, who was previously with Konsberg.

> The death of the mainframe is it a current day dinosaur? IDPM Sussex branch. Speaker Kevin Ca-hill, financial editor, Computer

■ Data General has reorganised its marketing funcation. The department now includes marketing specialists responsible for products, applications, OBMa and communications. Its functions will

include the independent software vendors programme. Bill Cadogan (above) has been appointed marketing manager. He will also continue to take responsibility for

New manager of Prolog Systems' IBM division is Jim Trusson. He was formerly a senior manager with Marcol Computer Services.

and financial controller at the Yeo-

man Aggregates group of com-panies for the past three years. Parnan qualified as a chartered ac-

countant with Howard Tilley is

Package Programs (PPL) has appointed Ken McNanghton as sales executed and Richard Tib-

betts as marketing support consul-tant at its decision support systems division. McNaughton joins from

ICL, where he spent the last 12

years in software marketing. Tib-betts was formerly with Applied Data Research, where he was in

systems engineering.

dudget preview - more work

Information technology SDP View: New party, New ideas? Speaker Ian Wrigglesworth DP. IDPM Central London

MP, SDF extremes at the control of the co rarde Cross. 7.30.

Weekly. Training Centre, Excess Insurance, Hill Barn Lane, Worthing. 7.00.

CONFERENCES

Managing director for Micom-Borer

MICOM-BORER has promoted its technical director, Ken Baynton, to managing director. He has been with the company for five years, joining as technical manager prior to the merger of Borer Electronics with Micom Systems of California. Last year be held joint responsibilities of technical director in the UK, and those of developing the recently-launched Micro 4000 high speed modem

Micro Memory Systems, part of the Grundy Group, has appointed three new members of staff. Larry Alen has been appointed sales manager. He was formerly with Pertec International. Kevin Cheeseman and Simon Kay will be working in complementary roles as software systems engineer and hardware systems engineer. Cheeseman was previously with Cheeseman was previously with Aydin Controls and Kay joins

Floyd Kvamme has been named executive vice-president, marketing and sales, for Apple Computer in California. He was formerly president of National Advanced Systems.

Neil Bapty and Kevin Hayes have pointed datacommunications company Xtec, formed five months ago to bring commercially viable ideas from this country's universities to the general mar-ketplace. Bapty, who has worked in datacommunications design with Plessey and Racal Milgo, lias been appointed product development manager. Hoyes, who has been appointed UK sales executive, previously worked in the installation of datacommunications and protocol conversion

Edward Picken (below) has been promoted to director, Media, at Memorex. He was previously computer media sales manager.



Donald Absalom (right) was one of four winners of Texas Instruments 99/4A home computers offered as prizes in o competition held by TI as the recent Which Computer? show. Absalom, who is assistant chief architect with Cambridgeshirs County Council, is seen receiving his prize from Paul Beard TI national sales manager for the company's data systems division. Dynabyte Business Computers has appointed Roger Chalke as ■ Pnddy Sandford-Jnhason, a computing and high technology Buropean marketing manager. He joins the company from Rair, where he was US sales manager, marketing the Rair Black Box III joined Amrop International as a partner and director from Canny

Bowen & Associates.

Karl Karlstrom, assistant vice-president and senior editor for ■ BIS Applied Systems has appointed two principal consultants computer science and applied ma-thematics at book publisher Prento be responsible for the company's new computer aided learn-ing division. Stephen Helms and Peter Corthine will market and tice-Hall, has been awarded the ACM (Association for Computer Machinery) Award for outstanding contributions to computer science develop the new product range of

There's life in the contract market yet

IMMEDIATE prospects look good for contract operators as sgencies report 20% more placings than this time last year. The threatened extinction of mainframe computers will eventually diminish the market, but not before demand grows a little in sympathy with the rest of the industry. pathy with the rest of the industry.

"There are enough mainframes around to last us a few years," says Gary Totten, manager of opera-tions for KPG Computer Services. The view of Derek Peet, contract operations sales manager at agency giant VLI is a little less optimistic: "The market will de-cline — it has to. But the next year is looking health."

is looking healthy."

Peet thinks the field for contract operators has broadened. There is siready less work on traditional mainframes, but so far that shortfall has been made up hymote work on minicomputers like the Digital Equipment PDP-11.

People with good technical support skills can find work, as can IBM operators. But there are excellent ICL people who have

excellent ICL people who have been out of work for ages, Peet says. To be employable, the young contract operator should have a car and be willing to move anywhere



PEET ... Field for contract operators has broadened.

operators busy themselves with printers and tape drives.

About half of all contract operators work as limited companies, which means that they pay their tax just once a year rather than having it deducted at source as PAYE. But few are paid directly by the companies or organisations and be willing to move anywhere whose computers they serve, at short notice.

With large machines, it is the cles which pass on to them about 70% of the see charged.

rather than the central processor. VLI has an IBM contact in Warwick where the vast main compu-ter room is empty and the contract

The four main agencies for contract operators are VLI, KPG Computer Services, Trident and Knight Computer Services. Many other agencies no longer run a specialist operations division, VLI says it has about 80 operators contracting at the moment, KPG cites a similar figure, and Totten estimates the total and Totten estimates the total

and Totten estimates the total number of contractors now working at 350.

The contract market is seasonal though, with the hard core crusted with students, Australians and exception, healed to its use he the with students, Australians and others during the summer for extra holiday cover.

can seem an eternity for a salesper-The system gives salespeople a terminal on their desks for quick and so a salesperson can finis son with an impatient customer self embarrassed by looking it is then k waiting for a quote on the phone. Fast response is therefore vital for access to stock levels and the state of customer accounts. As a corolsystems designed to give being unable to make the mil lary, information on fast and slow selling components is provided with the aim of keeping just the right amount of stock. In five salespeople immediate information about stock levels. cause someone else got in fire. The diamond centre of his ring is the Motorola fractic be lom agrees not to stock tel

more assembler routines.

The High Wycombe electronic components distributor Axiom Electronics knows this only too well. As a result it chose software written in assembler code for its stock control and information network. Assembler is slow to write, but

Sig/Net 202

does the

dirty work

in Sri Lanka

Assembler is slow to write, but It still yields faster programs than those written in high level languages like Cobol.

The system is based on the Molecular Mark IV made by British Computers (BCL) which also supplied the skeleton of the software. Axiom then hired Record Software to tailor the system with

words: maximum profit for Marketing director Bill

McKnight is delighted with the software especially, and says that apart from its speed it has the advantage that the same product cannot be sold twice during a hectic telephone selling session.

Surprisingly it can happen with other systems, McKnight ex-

plains, when two salespeople look up a particular line of stock at the same time. Both see that there is some left, and both sell it. Axiom's software updates the

makes. As a result 15,000 difes Motorola components are limit the Axiom computer, even the only 6,000 are usually in sock When a customer min Motorola component not normal in stock, the system indicated long it will take for it to be over

and delivered. Shadow stock it

name for such components. Axiom stocks the product other makers when there and Motorola equivalents: Spring citors for example and me

DIARY

FEBRUARY 27-28

Meeting. BCS Primary Care group. Royal College of General Practitioners. Details from Dr Mike Sheldon on (0602) 700111. MARCH'1

IDPM examination syllabus. IDPM Birmingham branch, New Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, 7.30, MARCH 2

EXECUTIVE and Professional Training is holding a seminar aimed at increasing success and effectiveness. Key topics are the individual's goals and attitudes and how to transform them to achieve what the individual wants, although the following will also be covered: Increasing productivity; more successful selling; more affective imme management; increasing creativity; more successful selling; more affective imme management; effective communication; and believe communication; and believe more effective. The seminar lasts four days and costs £400 + Ashton-Tate and Interco. Details from Christine White on 01-948 3111.

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offering, then reply to Box No. 1249 NOW!

I he logical

alternative

excavation, has led to its use by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Culture, Dr Ian Graham, of the Institute of Archae Legy in London, who is playing a key role in co-ordinating data entry packages in British archaeology, introduced the machine to Sri Lanka in January. It is now being used on a prestigious national archaeological programme.

national archaeological programme and Wang is helping with the

LOGIC analysers are the vital tools for ensuring that microprocessors have been correctly programmed for their destined task. The trouble is they are complex and capenaive.

That was until a Plymouth Polytechnic student, Charles Thomston, decided to do something about it. As part of his undergraduate project, he designed a cheaper alternative—and picked up a # \$200 cheaper alternative—and picked up a \$200 cheaper alternative—and picked up a \$200 cheaper alternative—and picked up a \$200 cheaper for his trouble from the Molins Design group as one of its annual award winners.

Wang one of the main exporters to Sri Lanka, is helping the proparative of the machines are to be shipped out in June.

Wang, one of the main exporters to Sri Lanka, is helping the proparative project, he designed a cheaper alternative—and picked up a \$200 cheaper alternative

PUZZLER

"He's developing a methans-powered computer."

I HAVE before me an equilibriangle, drawn on a sheet of paper. On it, I have marked point 3cm from the top of it triangle, 5cm from the bottom of the point and 7cm from the bottom. right corner.

What length is the side of it triangle? See page 45 for solutions.

first place as well?

neat and clean cut for the compu-

But he is just what you might expect an ex-chairman of the Young Conservotives to look like: dark, well gronmed hair, smooth and saturnine features, the obliga-

There is no impression, so comnion in the industry, of the bour-geois cloth trapping a wild soul, just waiting to escape into jeans, jesus boots and beads.

Yet his industry credentials are impeccable. He has emerged at 34 as managing director of that long time joint backwater belonging to ICL and Barclays Bank, Baric

Computer Services.

Prior to his emergence in the hot seat of what used to be Britain's biggest batch processing bureau, he worked in the computer division of bankers Schroeder Wagg, and before that he was at NatWest

He has survived from it all remarkably unscathed and even wears his former political background with panache, approaching publicity with the eagerness of a public figure.

On the morning of our interview
The Timer had profiled him—
mostly as a politician, which led to
the obvious question: Would he go
back to politics?

DOWNTIME!

The reason for this ignorance is, of course, that the mass media find the subject tedious and boring

No, not now, he said, and con-unued: "It's very rewarding and challenging to be in business dur-

politics, Gent said, merit and achievement are much more chancy. In business you can make

a decision and really motor.
So far he's definitely doing that.
Two years ago Baric was 90%
batch bureau with little or no growth showing in either profits or sales. Now, Gent elaims, Baric has batch processing as 50% of the husiness with the balance apread out in real time processing, soft-ware production, and facilities

In the course of further developing Prestel as a market rescarch ond clinical trial tool for pharmaceutical companies, Genthopes to create a significant role for Barie in the health care field.

All this should push Barie to turnover of £15 million for fiscal 1983. compared with £12 million

1983, compared with £13 million in 1982, according to Gent.

He spoke at some length of Bar-ic's role as the biggest vendor in the country of ICL's DRS distri-buted network system. Baric, Gent noted, is the largest



GENT . . . "Rewarding to be in business during a recession"

the fore as nowhere previously in

"Why," we asked, "do you not take the currently fashionable Baric, Gent noted, is the largest trader within the Traderpoint network, though it does deal at arm's length with ICL.

This posed s question which brought Gent's political skills to clearly implying that this was not

the computer industry THE rate of change in the computer industry is so fast that job security is a myth. Developments in technology can be seen either as an opportunity or a threat.

Too many records in the industry of the most of ahead of the market being land bear by imported system who have been in volume probability

I. Look to establish a carer in growth area. If your sector did industry is not growing, act sooner rather than later you call

For example, what effect in the following have: 314

microprocessors which outpeter current 32-bit minicomputers in availability of low-cost 256 Ri-memory chips; the development high capacity high performent low cost fixed discs.

Similarly for software: Ti Unix dominate the market? If you

believe so - what are you die about it? How do CP/M % n

MS-DOS compare? Which will ke

come more significant? What of

If you cannot get your ormis-tion to react positively to them of developments then change pr

Alternatively you can take it

portunities do they offer?

Calls for import controls 171 Too many people in the industry choose to ignore these changes and hope that if they keep a low profile best naive and only serve to be light the weaknesses of light then new technology will disap-pear and not affect them. manufacturers. How can one react to change

Well, it won't.

Over the last few years, the 8-bit personal microcomputer has become the biggest growth area in the industry, and the new genera-tion of 16/32-hit microcomputers which outperform machines sure your job will be threatend.

2. Keep yourself fully informal the latest developments in all nology particularly in harden and question how they will the costing several times their price, will reach those parts of the market other micros have not been able to

Eddie Bleosdale is managing director of Bleasdale Computer Systems

Security

at work is

a myth in

The reluctance or inability by people in industry to evaluate how these developments will personally affect them is possibly this country's single biggest weakness.

It is significant that in California

there is considerable pressure on people in the computer industry to establish or work in high tech-nology companies. No such quite the right kind of question, Gent stared the questioner, and the question, straight in the face. pressure exists in the UK, and the blame is generally laid at the door of venture capitalists. This is not He then moved the discussion to more mundane topics such as mar-

As an industry we must respond quickly to the changes in technology. Failure to do so will result

and so on, without giving a clue as to what he would feel like as the in products which are being de-veloped in the UK and being publicly claimed as 'aignificantly

atep to establish your own as pany. Though if you are much keeping your partner working that you have a regular income. Some points to consider are: I. Do not go to your bank mines

high technology, but he center won't risk his career backing it. 2. Look at the changes that so taking place, and evaluate how you ean exploit them. Can the work you have previously done be to

plied to these developments?

3. Venture capitalists in the UK tend to be conservative in making investments. As a result they in much-maligned, sometimes quit rightly, but there are other mounts of finance available for new companies, for example, the Softwar Products Scheme and the Microprocessor Amplications Productions Pro Microprocessor Applications Project. Also the Dol-backed sind firms loan guarantee scheme, it though it has been widely abused.

is atili a source of finance. 4. Make sure your proposal it well produced professional docment.

5. Aim to run a company which adds a significant value to the products it sells. It is far easier and

turnover and a small added value.

6. Do not compromise on quility. Always aim to provide the lesservice and product, so that pur ustomers are willing to pay it Chad

> rather than compete.
>
> If you are not prepared to red to the changes in the market the despite having a boring careful your job security will in all probability be a good deal less than how who are prepared to exploit technology and as a result have at exciting and interesting career. exciting and interesting career.

Ousdrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS Thursday, February 24, 1983

Why the winners have to go West

GO WEST young man! That was the cry of hope in America during the last century; for a few of the glittering prizes of UK computer companies it now may be the cry of

The latest to go West, at least for finance, is Systime, the high-flying Leeds systems company which has seen its rapid growth overstretch its financial base. The move makes a lot of sense for Systime; the question is how much sense it makes for the UK computer industry.

The US Control Data Corp, which is to take a stake of over 30% in Systime, will provide valuable overseas marketing muscle for the UK company.

A cash injection of over £10 million in oew money will slso help Systime over the financial hurdle presented by its heavy expenditure on product development and a new fac-

The negative part of the equation is that one of Systime's major shareholders, the British Technology Group, would not provide the financial support that Systime needed. The BTG, set up to atimulate innovation, is now not even being allowed by the government to back a winner.

Earlier in the year it was Compeda, the BTG's computer aided design company, which was sold off to US company

The CDC/Systime deal is not directly comparable: BTG retains a stake - down from 29.5% to something under 20%; and Systime retains control.

As we said, for Systime it makes sense. But the way the deal came about doesn't say much for the UK's commitment to its home-grown industry.

Restricted software

IBM took a leaf out of the independent software companies' books with the decision to stop supplying source code on ome of its products. And the move could have far-reaching effects in the software business.

It seems the decision was prompted by two major factors: the sheer complexity of the source coding for MVS, IBM's large machine operating system, and its associated program products. National Advanced Systems estimates that the mount of coding associated with MVS has tripled over four

"The task of updating all of this is awesome for IBM," sidone source.

The other reason smacks of something which IBM would ot have done 15 or 16 months ago when the company was still under investigation by the US Justice Department:
namely to put a damper on the activities of the independent oftware suppliers which rely on IBM's source code listings or a large part of their information about IBM products.

Both Amdahl and NAS agree that, as things stand, with only a few programs on the totally restricted list, the move will not affect them. But the number of products on the list will grow; this could affect both companies as they try to compete with IBM across a wider front.

One thing seems sure at the moment though - that the tally large-scale products will not be added to the list. It is in these that users make the most modifications and IBM is inlikely to try to prevent them, unless it goes the whole hog and becomes purely a supplier of standard packaged systems - take 'em or leave 'em. That is not beyond the ealms of possibility, but it is improbable.

At the moment it looks as though IBM is playing with an dea and saving itself some time and effort in the long term. Where the idea will lead is open to speculation.

The first effect will be relatively small. But it is only part of the revolution taking place in the IBM software market: the company is at any moment due to start general availabilty of its flagship operating system - MVS/Extended Architeriure. And, with it, a whole new charging system for

IBM might be aping the independent software companies t the moment, but when MVS/XA hits the streets those companies could be extremely worried if IBM takes too many leaves out of their book.

1984 and all that . . .

THIS week's example of the strange things people say about computers was sent in by M. E. Martin of Northolt, Middx., who wits £5;

Psychologist George Kiss has won a £27,000 grant to pro-stamme a computer at Warwick University to "feel" emotion and "fall in love".

The Sun

Talking books for blind Students in plea for jobs

books" for the blind in Britain but there are over 50,000 hlind leaders needing help — 4,300 of them are over 90 and we have as many as 150 over 100-years-old. Although we have a large number of believes we have a large number of helpers, there are still some 40 areas throughout the country where we are desperate for further helpers.

These volunteers come from a wide range of technically trained electrical or electronic engineers and each is able to look after up to ten or more blind people: to visit them when required and to assist in repairing generally minor de-fects to their sets.

Would you be prepared to give up some of your time for this work? The time involved probably does not exceed about one hour

THE computer Press appears to be

that there are no software applica-tions available for the Unix operat-

We would like to correct this false impression by pointing out that our company, Bivius Systems of Haywards Heath, has the fol-

seven blind people.
The blind have tape reading cassette-type playback units and are supplied with tapes from a large library in London. Help is needed to install these, initially by fitting a plug and hy giving some goidance to the blind whose average age is over 70 and many of whom are

Those who are prepared to assist or would like further details should please write to me. Assistance would be very greatly ap-

D. FINLAY-MAXWELL Hon organiser, Voluntary Helpers British Talking Book Service for

c/o John Gladatone & Co Wellington Mills Huddersfield HD3 3HJ

Yes, we have Unix software

lowing software applications, all of which are available in Cobol (including SSP) and a lade of the column and the column are available in Cobol (including SSP). cluding SSP): sales ledger/invoicing, pure hase/nominal ledger, stock control, order processing

K. E. BLACKWOOD

1 AM 17, currently on a one-year course run by the Manpower Ser-vices Commission at KBS Computer Services, and interested in breaking into programming, but can find no openings in a training capacity in this field.

of this nature in the trainee capa-city, but can find no firm willing to I have the aptitude and ability to enter this field as a trained if only take on the responsibility of somebody would give me the chance which, so far, I have not training a person in programming, even if that person does have some been able to find. experience in that area. I would like to start as a trained

I know that I am fully capable of taking on such a job, if I could programmer, but even jobs of this nature require at least two years' experience in computing, which I only find one. ohviously have not got. That is fine, but how do I go about getting

MARTIN LEWIS 86 Ninlan Road,

the experience? By getting a job, of course, but how can I get that job

if that requires experience in the

Even though I am "unly 17", I am fully capable of taking on a joh

AM a sixth form student and frequently read the copy of Com-puter Weekly delivered in my computer science teacher. I am

very keen on computing and I wondered if you could help me. I have eight "O" levels including maths, computer science, physics and chemistry, all at grade B, and am at present taking three "A" levels (maths, computer science and physics). I would like a job on a technical systems analyst electronics of the computer.

Can any of your readers tell me what are the best steps to take after

completing my college course? Perhaps there are other young people wanting the same informa-Computer Weekly so that letters such as mine could be printed with a reply? I am sure this would b very useful to other students.

D. A. LEATHER 38 Moorwell Road Seunthorpe South Humberside

The Editor welcomes letters on subjects published in Computer Weekly, or on original topics.

THE HEART OF INDUSTRIAL WALES.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARDIFF MARCH 22-24, 1983

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WIN THE COMPANY'S BUDGIE FOR MY RALE Liveware

mons ... Imports of electronic business equipment to the UK in 1972 intelled £103 million,

10 YEARS AGO

ONLY days after reading in a dictionary of computing terms that punch cards are "virtually obsolete", I was faced with trying to get hold of some for a display

As this proved to be no easy task, I began a process of climination, working out where "obsolete" equipment was atili likely to be used routinely.

So, I rang up my old Hairmania. As this proved to be no easy task, I began a process of elimination, working out where 'obsolete' equipment was atll likely to be used rounnelly.

So, I rang up my old University Computing Centre where I found hundreds of happy users contentedly punching cards.

Well, there is something on the table begins to implement the logic language Prolog.

The table belongs to Prolog shop for a whole week without telling anyone. Colwell grumbles of imperial College in London. So hundreds of happy users contentedly punching cards.

FROM COMPUTER WEEKLY
OF FEBRUARY 22, 1973: An assurance that there would be no immediate reduction in government aid to ICL because of Britain's membership of the REC was given in the Commons. Imports of electronic





Who's interested in IT?

To discover what impact information technology has had upon lay men and women, Computer Weekly has stooped to stopping people in the street.

I admit we only asked five people, but my gut instinct tells me that they happened to be the right five. Only one knew what IT was.

The reason for this ignorance is, of course, that the mass media find the subject tedious and boring—unlike us here at CIV

As for the BBC, I refer you to a news item lifted from New Scientist on to the Radio 4 breakfast news the other dsy. The item concerned the sinking of HMS Sheffield by an Exocet missile in the Palklands war. The suggestion was that the missile went undetected by the ship's early warning system because a computer had been programmed to recognise the French-made Exocet as a friendly missile.

the subject tedious and boring — unlike us here at CIV

The Daily Mirror for example, has a perfectly competent technical journalist who occasionally turns up at Press conferences. But he might aimost as well not exist; since he hardly ever gets any space in the paper.

The Daily Mirror for example, and not crowing, My point — and not economical reporting — is that they cannot be bothered to investigate such claims.

After all New Scientist has been known to err, as even have we.

Still punching Give-away

IVE BEEN MAINFRAMED

Fiddling days

are over RECALCITRANT local managers will be brought to heel by a massive central communications network being installed at the 920 shops of the Victoris Wine chain. We have this from the mouth of the man st the helm, Victoria managing director Bric Colwell.

Local managers sometimes mark up the price unknown to

from every shop.

SOFTWARE publicity moved up s couple of gears last week with the innovation by Package Programs Ltd of a jamboree at a large London hotel. The all-singing, all-dancing show — well, some singing and a bit of lurching about — was managing director Roy Taylor's idea of getting his whole team together for once. "Our systems programmer speaks a fourth generation language — and no one can understand a word he says." They rolled

dent, quoted company.

ket share, the oeed for standards,

managing director of an indepen-

Taylor a idea of getting his whole team together for once.

There was a short film comparing PPL's heroic advances to those of Star Wars. Then the master of ceremonies was introduced and he turned out to be not Roy, but Tim Brooke-Taylor.

could be more user friendly and calculators that can be used ecologically acceptable than an inset coffee cup holder on the VDU, to keep the cuppa warm with research as digital clocks and calculators that can be used without switching the machine on, as well as a toothpaste dispenser to keep the cuppa warm with research as digital clocks.

Brooke-Taylor,

He struggled manfully with a mass of acronyma and abbreviations — coining one of his own, TMFI: "Too many f — initials".

The atmosphere rapidly became that of a pre-American election convention — Tim wearing his national flag shirt and sporting a red rosette, plus balloons, bouquets, gold clocks being awarded,

The adventures of General Ledger and the two Counts (Counts Payable and Receivable) are recounted - multi-groan! - and there are life-size portraits of

mark up the price unknown to central office and pocket the difference, Colwell explains. The new system will prevent them from doing this.

One local manager closed his and enough is being awarded, matazz, haven't you?

Are you sitting comfortably?

DESPITE the emphasis on ergonomically designed workstations, not enough is being done to ensure accessories such as digital clocks and calculators that can be used

I'M TRAINING MY ... TM PLAYING LONG JOHN SILVER-BYTES

Rolling'em in the aisles

"Our systems programmer speaks a fourth generation lan-spage — and no one can under-stand a word he says." They rolled

ning a company with a sufficient turnover which has a significant added value than one with a lay

fees you charge.
7. Join a group, such as the CPA
User Group or the European Use
User Group which enables you a
become better known in the ast
you are working in, and try to a
operate with other companie
rather than compete.

Eddie Bleasda

could, at a pinch, knock up a bit of a graphics package on their own

Things start to get messy when these graphics - maybe intrinsi-cally nice - have to be made to do something useful, such as helping the industrial user to make some-thing and, ideally, making it at a profit. And that is an indescribably messy pass to come to, simply be-cause the path to marketable prosort that normally inhabits the

Consider the liletory of the beast. It attried, back in the 1950s. There was CAD proper, in which computers were used to help draughtsmen. There was CNC omputer Numerical Control), in control production equipment. And, later, there was CAT (Computer Aided Test), in which computers were used to assist in testing the finished products. And, later

CAD North opens next week. Here Chris Naylor looks at government aid A range of schemes to That is largely what is peak under the government (100 schemes - the sembar, deal centres, consultatory (100 the money) cons fax knowledgeable people with appearance. That is largely what is peak under the government (100 schemes - the sembar, deal centres, consultatory (100 the money) cons fax knowledgeable people with appearance. The sembar deal centres are the sembar deal centr in the more regular aide of computing – that is to say, manipulating numbers and words – looking at the field of computer aided design (CAD) is like being given a sudden peek into a can of worms. And trying in say whether this particular can of worms is being handled correctly by the government is correspondingly difficult. The problem lies in the messy nature of CAD itself. Everyone knows that computers can be made to handle images and, therefore, design work. In fact, most people could, at a pinch, knock up a bit of

for the terminological skim

through history.

But imagine what it might be like if all of these things were tied together in an integrated whole.

Your firm wants in produce product. So design it using CAD, in the process of doing that a datacause the path to marketable products is not a niec, tidy route of the base is built up which contains an exact apecification of the items to the first place. And, if any prob-

be inamufactured. So use that database to drive the CAM side.

Ideally, at every CAD workstation there could be a little button marked 'Build It's which is pressed when the CAD is complete and which atarts the CAM rolling.

And, as the finished product drops And, as the finished product drops out of the jaws of the CAM device, it might as well be picked straight up by the CAT device which, using again the CAD database could, in theory, carry out a com-plete computerised test of the finished product to make aure that

If the government could lay down a route from here to there, its record on CAD would be excel-

down any auch route, because routes are things you lead inert objects along. And the objects to travel down this route are not front of these firms pulling them along, but to stand in parallel with

broad categorles: seminara, demonstration centres, consul-

First a company might express ome initial interest and want to know a little more about CAD so give the relevant staff a one-day eminar. That whets their appetitite, so let them go to a demonstra-

this product is what was wanted in the first place. And, if any problems occur as the product goes through this cycle, they can always be fed back into the original CAD

which, from the same database, is working out how much profit everybody is making.

The only anag with this scenario

is that no-one can put it ito effect as yet. The problem la: How can we get from where we are now to this Utopia? And bow can we get there faster than, say, the Japa-

But the government has not laid totally mert for they are the many liousands of firms that make up UK industry. The object of the exercise has not been to stand in

them, trying to provide help as they travel under their own steam. This help has fallen into four

tion centre to play with some CAD kit. At this point they're getting really interested, so let them have a

pite the many names, the concepts of help are simple enough because they are all based on a process hereby an interested firm would only have to make one phone call to any part of any of these schemes and fairly well-committed people

At that, the schemes seem pretty straightforward. And it could, possibly, be argued that to look at it more closely only blurs that nice four-step initiation process. But to Brian Gott of the Computer Aided Design Centre at Cambridge (CADCentre) appears nicely detached in his views on government aid given that the CAD Centre is DoI-funded. give a few names and numbers, the two main schemes are CADCAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) and CADMAT (Manufacture And Test). Basically, both schemes were set up by the Department of Industry during IT82 and are to run for a total of three years. CAD-CAM tends to concern itself Itself with the "heavy" engineering side and CADMAT tends towards the

"One is always a bit torn about government help," he says, "Some argue that it softens people, that they should stand on their own two feet, but this time around we're getting a lot of feedback from electronics side. This split is empeople saying it's just what's wanted. The government seems to phasised by the involvement of the institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) in CADCAM and the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) in CADMAT. Funds put aside for the schemes were £6 million for CADCAM and 50 million for CADCAM be doing about the right amount. People never like to admit what they don't know - they like to be able to come somewhere where nobody's trying to sell them any-thing, but there the staff know million for CADCAM and £9 million for CADMAT. what they're talking about.'

A further £12 million over two years has been allocated to assist firms in purchasing equipment with grants of up to one-third of the total cost being made to cover hardware. hardware, software and conaul-

In a way, the organisation of the schemes is probably more difficult to understand than the schemes themselves. Por instance, if a firm was going for an integrated CAD approach, as per the pipedream, it would probably begin to come under the wing of FMS (Flexible Manufacturing Scheme) with its set of aids and grants. And if a firm wanted to develop CAD kit it might well come under the wing of SPS (Software Products Scheme).

with its aids and grants,
And if a firm whispered the
word "microprocessor" in the
hearing of the DoI it would prob-

ably never recover from the full

weight of money thrown at it.

will start to channel them around

until they fall into a belpful slot. And, at that stage, it isn't so much

what the schemes are called, or

how they're formally organised, so

much as whether or not they work.

This is where the value of the demonstration centres cone in Impartial places where newcome in can "try things out at a resonable to the control of the contr

unpressured pace"
Gott's views are echoed by b.
Elizabeth Laverick, IEE project
director for CADMAT. "It's a just the suppliers who can pupressure on, she claims, and has that many pressures come for within the potential user's firm. For example, Laverick online

CAD user is under pressure inc. say, his parent firm to adopt 1 pe ticular CAD approach. This me be to bring him in line with overal corporate policy, although them porate approach may not be as able for the user's activities.

Of those who attend seminar and demo centres about 40% at genuine naive users (or would be users), about 20% are consulted and about 40% are people wi CAD systems which are not full ling their requirements.

The first group of people wer, of course, expected, But the ole two? Gott says: "The reason he wave their problems around stor centre in because the reason haven't solved them. This might not be the vendor's fault - it aren't really in that market. The vendors might just be selling single module - even IBA doean't always do a complete job linking things." Needless to M. he sees this sort of high-level on aultancy expertise as a growth wa

Some useful names and numbers

THERE are a number of places you can go to find out more about CAD under the government's awareness schemes. But whichever number you ring, the person at the other and should be able to point you in a suitable direction. CADMAT general information, IEE 01-240-1871 CADMAT demo centre, IEE Hitchin 0462-53331

CADCAM general information, Dol CADCAM demo centres: -01-212-5789 Birmingham, Hugh Humphries. Manchester, Mike Looney..... Cambridge, Dennis Payne ... Newcastle, Jim Thompson Glasgow, Dick Simm Capital equipment purchase acheme, Dol.....





wide range of design products to the show

CAD North exhibition will give many suppliers access to a new market . . . Boris Sedacca reports

produce high quality drawings and reports on Versatec Electrostatic

plotters quickly and with no more

hoat processing than a pen plotter

Also shown on the Versatec at and will be the 8236F 36-inch

wide film plotter which allows drawings to be overlaid for appli-cations such as mapping seophysi-cal and business graphics, and the

Model 430 offline plotting

workstation, as well as three Model V-80 high resolution

telligent graphics terminal provid-ing local hardcopy from acreen. The system is based on an Intel

8086 microprocessor under

firmware control in read-only-memory (ROM) and 64 Kbytes memory for the display list with optional extra 128K bytes.

A light pen is offered as a stan-

Benson Electronics has its own

stand although many of its pro-ducta can be seen as part of the other exhibitors' displaya. In-cluded with its range of electros-

tatic piotters will be a new machine

older Model 5342 but adds fea-

dard feature with an optional tablet allowing parts of a picture to be deleted or moved without hav-ing to redraw the entire picture.

Imlac will demonstrate its Series

computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) has gathered such speed that a single exhibition held every twn years is no longer sufficient for suppliers who wish to establish a presence in the

So the organisers of the CAD exhibition decided to launch CAD North to allow exhibitors to reach their prospects more frequently. CAD North takes place at the Bellevue Hall in Manchester on March 1-3 from 10am to 6pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and from 10am to 5pm on the Thurs-

Minicomputer manufacturer Prime has made significant inroads into CAD/CAM, a development which culminated in the com-pany's recent takeover of UK CAD specialists Compeda, Digital Equipment looks set to become a serious challenger with its Vax range of 32-bit minicomputers.

Compeda has the second largest stand at CAD North after McAuto and will now include exhibits from

The company's exhibits are 2 high resolution vector-refresh in-aimed at three areas: first mechani-telligent graphics terminal providcal engineering with a product called Dragon, a two-dimensional draughting system; aecondly, a Plant Design Management System (PDMS) for the petrochemical industries; and thirdly, integrated circuit design sids with a product called HDIT P.

Compeda played an important part in the CAD North organisera' decision to set up an exhibition specifically for the North, "The North has a lot of potential and we have many existing customers there," says Jane Feeban, marketing services on ordinates for

We felt that the CAD exhibition was predominantly attended by people in the South. I believe we will reach a market this year which we did not reach last year,

Versatec will abow a range of electrostade plotters including its Random Element Processor, a ti

which eliminates the host proceasing computing overhead previously needed for electrostatic processing.

affair according to sales and marketing manager Bill Reakes. "The Genie was previously called the Source 45, based on the Hewlett Packard 9845 desk-top computer.

only at a price of £2,500. mensional draughting facilities with bill-of-materials processing numerical control programm and finite element calculations.

Terminal Display Systems is well known in the North with its bome town in Blackburn, Lancashire. The company will launch a low-cost desk-top engineering graphics terminal from Megatek, providing high resolution graphics firmware at the terminal end. With a resolution of 640 x 480

and operating at speeds up to 19.2 Kbaud, the 1650 is software compatible with the top-of-the-range Megatek 7600 and 7200 series. The company has recently been

appointed as a Motorola distribu-tor and will run a piece of software called VERSAgraphic which it has developed with US-based Graphic Strategies on the Motorola Exormacs microcomputer, featuring low-cost raster graphics and noused on a single printed circuit

new Integrated Computer-Aided Engineering and Manufacturing (ICEM) package, featuring new delivery systems, training pack-ages and supporting professional

called the Model 1565 drum plot-ter accommodating a single sheet size up to A0, which replaces the level Cyber 170/815 via remote tures auch as a acreen and keylink to its North London ICEM board for operator control at roughly the same price.

Norrie Hill will demonstrate three systems, although one of them, the Genie, will be a low key

Norrie Hill will demonstrate three aystems, although one of them, the Genie, will be a low key

Control Data for use on the Plato

CBE system.

Cambridge Interactive Systems

s featuring turnkey computer-ided design, draughting and mapufacturing systems based on Examples of CAM-X 2D design and draughting, 3D solid Prime minicomputers and its Medusa software. The company will modelling, numerical control pro-gramming and records manage-ment software modules will be illustrate applications in a variety of mechanical and electrical fields. Ferranti Cetec will demonstrate

its CAM-X computer-aided engineering system, including the full range of applications software. The stand will feature a CAM-X colour graphics computers and the

CGC7900 is designed for stands

Ferranti Cetec will demonstrate its CAM-X computer aided engineering system on Stand 401.

workstation, incorporating enlour raster graphics display and connec-ted online to a Digital Equipment

Still time to shine

Pragma will be showing the Chromatics CGC7900 and CG series

lone use but can also be connected to a host computer. It features 16-bit processor and a range o anguages and software packages. Tektronix will be demonstratio

its 2D draughting system based on 4054 desk-top computer. The company's display will also include using an ink-jet air flow techi Trilog Colorplot printer. The a Tektronix 4113 colour terminal

COMPUTASTARS



JK dates

Enfield Sunday June 5
Enfield Sunday June 19
Barnsley Saturday June 25
Birmingham (UK final)
Saturday July 23
Computatars is open to both men's and women's teams, each comprising between three and five members. Cost is £37.50 per team, with an additional payment of £20 for teams reaching the UK final.
There will also be a charge for

in Computastars ENTRIES are atill open for Computastars - but only just. There's final, which will be announced

only one week to go and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis, so post off your form to the organisers quickly to avoid

disappointment.
Full details of the competition can be found in the February 3 issue of Computer Weekly, or from the organisers at the address on the

The brawny types among you may be interested in the tug-o-war contest, run alongside the main competition. Called somewhat unsurprisingly Computatug, the event can be entered by teams of six men or women, as long as these entrants are not involved in Computastars itself. Entry fee for Com putatug (a£10.

If you have any queries about Computastars, don't contact us at Computer Weekly. The man with the answers is Gardon

	Some and the second sec
Supports. 1000 to 1.	COMPUTASTARS ENTRY FORM We have read and accept the conditions of entry for the Computastars/Computatug 1983 and would like to enter Main competition Small units Veterans Computatug Men's teams Men's teams Men's teams Men's teams Women's teams Women's teams
	Names of team(s)
MAIN INTERNICE	Company
	Address
MA DEPTAL STATE OF THE PARTY OF	
	Name of contact
Vores at CAD North	Telephone Bxtension
Your guide to exhibitors at CAD North	
mpany Stand number Data Type Terminals 429 Pragma 106	Signature of DP manager or equivalent authority
131 Department of Industry	Position held
olin Community Terminals 434	We would like to compete in the following region:
Bon Richards of Cambridge 437 Bagineering Computer Systems 277 Robots UK 254	
worths Scientific 100 Gerber Systems 101 Saspe Data 101 DATA At A Statement 425	LONDON (ENFIELD) SOUTH (ENFIELD)
	please eircle appropriate region
mbridge Interactive Species K42 Image International 420 Terminal Display Systems 524	
Con Stimmsgraphics 123 Intergraph 550 Stimmsgraphics 422	Enclosed is £ to cover the entry fees for the team(s). Cheques should be made payable

is all matters relating to the rules or conditions of entry, the decision of the organisers is final. Please send entry form and fees to Computastars, 117b High Street, Croydon CR0 1QG. Teleph 01-688 6690

. to be incorporated in the plans used by the engineers to bille the system ::

Using a CAD terminal the designer can develop his ideas . . .

Boris Sedacca reports on the use of CAD at Perkins Engines where workstations have replaced drawing boards to speed the design process

swiftly to market demanda. Many have come to recognise computer-aided-design as a valuable and al-

most indispensable tool for this.
Perkins Engines, one of the
world's leading manufacturera of
diesel engines, is one such manufacturer. The company is a sub-sidiary of Massey Ferguson. It runs two IBM mainfrantes for its routine commercial applications — a 3033 and a 370/168 — to which about 400 terminuls are linked. There is also an online link into Massey l'erguson's worldwide commercial network.

processor Computervision installation comprising two CGP 100 processors to which 11 worksta-

The use of CAD at Perkins allows design engineers to examine engine inlet port shapea and profilea, as well as combustion chamber configurations — that is, their volumes and shapes. The number of disciplines are closely related and designers who are fully related and designers who are fully conversant with three-dimensions capabilities are expected to work with aerodynamiciata and combus-tion engineers who will probably he using other mainframe-based echnical computing programa. Designers can make compo-

engine views from various angles. Alterations to an engine part which have been made oo ooe view of the drawing will be reflected in all other views and on all drawings of that part held io the system.

The system also performa typical CAD functions such as changing the acale of a drawing, "zooming in" for detail work or "pulling back" to give a more general view. Text and figures can be easily added or deleted as re-



An assembly line for four cylinder engines of the Peterborough plant

The time taken to perform routine draughting operations is dras-tically reduced when compared when compared against conventional manual methods, along with the time taken to perform other routine drawing tasks such as dimonsioning, producing detailed drawings from general assembly drawings,

"We were originally looking for faster production of assembly drawings," saya John Brentnall, CAD supervisor at Perkins Enginea. "Drawings are also used as sales-aida. We expect to benefit from faster design changes. Our aim is also to make drawing much more widely available to other terminal users on the IBM mainframe minal users on the IBM mainframe by linking it to the Computervi-

area, linked to it by mean of on putervision's Graphics News Architecture (GNA).

Within the engineering drist which is responsible for the dris and development of new engine CAD equipment is used in range of design tasks. The point Q14 range of engines which is to come on to the market in the come on the come on the come on the come on the come of the come of the come on the come of the mid-1980s, was the compani-first major engine project a veloped with the use of CAD.

The Q14 engine family will brace three, four, five and in the inder units, the design of min encompasses the latest in did engine technology. It will have significantly better fuel compas tion than current engines, last noise output and will baye kupi lution omitted from the exhaust

Where we expect the main benefit is in the faster production of drawings, for exemple, by storing regularly used components so that they can be inserted

Sales, training, marketing and other sections of the company can e given ready access to up-to-theminute drawings to provide illus-trations for brochures, training

rancos for orocnures, training sida, catalogues, and so on.

This facility to distribute drawings, some of which may contrain aenaltive design information which could be vital to the company's competition, may create security problems. But according to Frank Reader, computing manager at Perkios, mainframe users who want access to drewings from who want access to drawings from their terminals are subjected to sufficient security measures pro-vided through IMS, IBM's data-

"Primary work, such as engine testing, is first carried out on various minicomputers from which data is later extracted for updating mainframe files," Roader

These minis are localised, typically containing non-sensitive short term data. Otherwise there is short term data. Otherwise there is a lot of security built in to IMS, and enyway, only 12 out of the 400 frame have this CAD facility at the moment. Suppose the security built in the Impact was an also be moment. Suppose the security built in the Issue of Standard Perkins fastener. The list defines not only be materials and dimensions of page that the suppose was a suppose was

Perkins is a centralised, single site company. Nine CAD workstations are located in the engineering area, while the other two are in the manufacturing area, where the account whether these sites are at the beginning or ead their lifecycles), and the unit cellular in the control of the contr area, while the other two are in tho manufacturing area, where the actual production of the engines takes place; for tasks such as jig and tool design. The bost Computervisloo machine is located together with the IBM mainframes in the management systems area. n the management systems area, halfway between engineering and

manufacturing.

This, according to Brentnall, to provide the advantage of 24-hour operation. The other Computervision processor acts as a satellite to the hoar within the engineering Turn to page 19

建等等等的 经基础的 医皮肤

"Essentially, we try to suton mundane design tasks. Far oxample, simple component drawn automatically by cotto their dimensions in the form alphanumeric data," says Brosnall. "Where we expect the men benefit la in the faster production of drawings, for example, by the ing regularly used components that they can be inserted quickly.

"We have been Computervisor customers for five years now. We have also used other manufactures."

ers like IBM for more generalis such as finite element analysis, in example. We will eventually not grate the two systems to allow users on the CAD system to more

The use of CAD also promote standardisation by allowing s signer to select, for example, threaded fastener by calling up t

aided engineering; By using his design capabilities of CAD, we will be looking at those aspects of engine design related to combu-tion," says Brentnall.
"We also want to provide its

ability to run technical compoting

PREVIEW OF CAD NORTH

CAD promotes standardisation

From page 18

programs through CAD terminals to link their results with 0 grephics capability, specially in field of fi-

nite element mesh generation and finite element anslysis," he adds.

There are 30,000 live drawings held on file at Perkins. Ooe of the benefits of CAD is that modifications to existing drawings can be carried out quickly and new drawings produced quickly on a Versatec electrostatic plotter. Pon olotters are also used for outline

Manufacturing sections will be able to use computer-geoerated graphics as direct ioput to compu-ter-controlled machino tools. The production of numerical control (NC) tapes will sllow Perkins to gradually move to a total computer-aided-engineoring environ-ment, using three-dimensional CAD work for machining port shapes and comhustion chambers, and integrating this with work on

The use of CAD also allows Perkins to uodertako profitably amailer projects becsuae rurnaround time on drawings is speeded op. The system was plaoned from the outset to integrate with other computer functions. Problems created by the scale of the operation at Perkins are increased by the large number of different engine specifications, each of which la tailored to match customer ro-

This lesds to complications in assembly, component supply, and so on. The Perkina system helps to keep product costs down hy in-creasing efficiency and keeping down atock levels. The company's approach bas been to integrate systems as closely as possible to allow all divisions to access data stored on the system.

The use of ASPRO enaures that all areaa of the company are working from the manufacturing

The system provides assistance to the salea and manufacturing operation in addition to activities such as financial control and engineering. Perkins calls this AS-PRO, for ASsembly PROgramming, Its function Is to maintain an accurate, precise definition of future production in the form of outlier production of outlier production in the form of outlier production in the fore future production in the form of a

build program" This in turn provides the data for other systems such as material macbloing, factory capacity stores. The build program is constantly updated by a sales proces-

The use of ASPRO ensures that working from the same manufac-uring plan and that factory loads and capacities are matched more

On the materials aupply side, the system automatically generates a set of proposals showing when sippliers should be instructed to make deliveries. The effect on materials atook levels can then be calculated and among the state of calculated and amendments made before printing delivery schedules to be sent to suppliers.

database accordingly.
The system allows online Petkina is currently extending he system for checking stores on the shopfloor and the amount of work-in-progress by installing a barcode scanner which will read computer-printed labels on the bins in which components are transported around the factory.

Engine tracking facilities down particular engine type, total planned production for a given period, and so on period.

taining a magnetic strip which ac-companies each engine.

After each major operation is completed, the card is fed through a reader which scans the magnetic strip to report to the system the location of the engine. Terminals located throughout the factory are used by production personnel to inform the system of any faults found in an engine so that it can keep track of that engine's whereshours.

The ayatem also records informstion from the engine tost cells where every engino is put through its paces before it leaves the factory. The behavlour of the engine under varying conditions of load and speed is recorded for later recall for things like quality

analysis down to component level.
All reports from warranty actoring etc, are entered into the computer and added to the information stored during the en-gine's passage through the factory. ports are then analysed and reliability data related to particular

The system also helps customers' and distributors' service personnel who can obtain the engine's full history from the system.

Storing component and produc

manufacturing areas in deciding how to assemble engines. For each records the full parts list and the routo the engine must take through the factory in order for all components to be assembled in a ogical sequence.

Changes in ongine designs and apecifications are "exploded" to how production departments the significance of alterations, compo then helps to calculate the correct assembly route for the new speci-lication. Changes also affect the purchasing departments which are automatically alerted to altera-

tions.
Perkins sales subsidiaries throughout the world are linked to the Perkins mainframe system a Peterborough. These companie enter customer orders into terminals, specifying the engines to be delivered and the week in which delivery is required up to 12 months away. The system checks ordera received against factory pre efined constraints established

cbecks to see whether the number of orders received for a given week is within the production capacity of the factory and whether i order are in atock or can ordered and delivered on time.

Provided that the order docs no exceed any of these constraints the sales company is instantly in formed that the order is accepte and the system automatically up forecast materials and component requirements so that the necessary chasing department and those sec-tions of the factory concerned with

producing engine components.

If however the new order does exceed the constraints laid down in the system's program, then it is referred to the production control department for a decision. If the order can be accommodated by for example, rearranging the planned engine building programme, the sales company is in formed and the system updates the

terrogation from any terminal se that all departments coocerned can keep track of the situation, to establish the current state of the order book for a particular customer, the planned production of a



Buying to Sell?

An important conference for companies buying products to sell on to the user



COMPUTER WEEKLY February 24 1983 19

The Computer Trade Conference is a vital opportunity to laarn how to buy in systems, software and peripherals and sell then

The solitorial resources of Computer Weekly. Systems international and Practics I Computing have combined to stage a two day conference covering the sales of medium and small systems and products to both professional and home computer user.

Ranging from mass storage to software, and from IOM to the best vertical market, the conference will run alongside the first puter Trade Show of the international Wembiey Conference Centre and be held on April 26 and 27, 1983. Make a date to share the experience of suppliers and vendors alike.

What hardwere should you sell? — the amount of technology on the market is bewildering. What products and types of devices an

here to stay, and more importantly, which can make money for you? Whot software should you sell? - it is tempting to go for the established products such as CP/M. Wordstar and Visicalc, But is this t

11.00 Who should you sell to?—are vertical markets the way forward, or is a more general approach to marketing called for?

11.30 Coffee.

Support - how much should you give? - are cut prices and a cash and carry at titude preferable to comprehensive user support, or is there room for both methods? 12.15 What a software house looks for in a dealor? — a leading software house explains its selection criteria for the organisal inns which wi

Selling and licencing through larga manufacturers — you may have a product needed by a major computer company. How should

Dealing with the majors 1 — ICL and the Traderpoint scheme.

Dealing with the majors 2—IBM and its attritude to third party vendors. A rerechance to get behind the larade of this enigments quant. 15.30 Dealing with the majors 3 - DEC and its authorised dealer scheme. The world leader in minicomputers talks about selling for them.

What's naw? — hardware developments - an overview of the current state of the art. Everything you ever wanted to know about micro floppies, low cost printers. Winchesters and local area networks.

What's naw? - software developments - database management, operating systems, and the latest trends in applications software

11.00 Putting it together—the problems of plug incompatability—what fits with what, and what won't. A look at putting together

11.45 Marketing your own product —a software house case study. A behind the scenes look at how to do it right the first time. 12.15 Sailing yoursalf—how to get your name known by the right type of customer. The power of advertising should be working for you,

14.00 Don't ignore the man in the street; a case study -- home computer users are becoming more sophisticated. High volume, Low cost

14.30 Selling into husiness: a case study — higher unit costs appear at tractive, but is the commercial user a tougher nut to crack than the

15.00 Selling a US product in the UK - there's a vast pool of packages across the water. How, and why, you should sell them to the British

15.30 A future look - where will you be in a year's time.



REGISTRATION FORM Please complete in block capitals and send to Conference Administrator, Room 1313. Surrey House, Throwley-Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4QQ, Tel: 01 643 8Q-10, Ext., 4B9Q, and 1892. places for the Computer Trade Conference.

Please send mertetails about exhibiting

Please indicate which sessions you will be attending April 26 April 27 The fee of £170 plus £25.50

Company

Authorised Signal ure



development of diesel engines

DIFSEL engine technology is advancing swiftly, mainly in the areas of combustion and alternative fuels such as alcohol and coalderived synthetic fuels.

Diesel engine manufacturers need to speed their design process to connecte and in order to respond

The Perkins computer-aided-design system is based on a dusl-

tions are linked. A workstation, in Perkios terminology, is regarded as a replace-ment for the draughtsman's drawing board, and consists of a large graphics tablet and digitiser. A menu on the tablet allows the draughtsman to choose functions required hut a normal keyhoard is used for entering numeric data. Two pen piotters and two electros-

The company makes mure than half a million engines every year in copies.

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Sponsored by Committee Weekly May 17-19, 1983. Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

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Following a highly auccessful debut in Scotland this year, we are giving COMPEC SCOTLAND 83 a new venue with fer more sellling space. Even et this early date, over 50% of stenda available have been sold.

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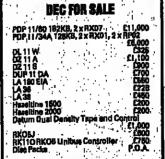
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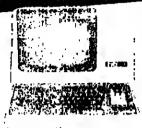
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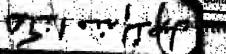
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Encotel's new version of the BMC 18800 with built-in printer and full cotour high resolution graphics, costs about £3,600. Made by Oki, it is fitted with a 10 Mbyte Mitsubishi Winchester disc drive and Oki's own controller.

Encotel expects the new model

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to appeal to anyone wanting rapid access storage, particularly scientific and technical users.

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Gallid matrix printer

A DOT matrix printer called the Superwriter II has been intro-duced by Gallid, It is an 80/132

column microprocessor-controlled device auitable for almost every

type of computer installation, says Gallid. It can also be used as an

Low cost back-up for Apple III users

SINTROM Electronics has SINTROM Electronics has launched a low cost back-up device for Apple III users. The Sintrom 4510 has been developed specifically for the Apple III Profile Winchester disc and is claimed to offer back-up at 25% less cost than any other device on the market.

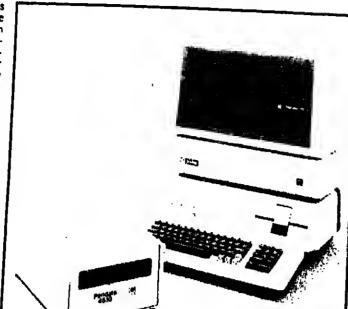
other device on the market.

Most users of Winchester disc microcomputer systems need back-up to maintain safe archive management procedures. The Apple III user previously could transfer the five Mbytes of data to floppy discs, a lengthy and troublesome process, or could buy a very expensive streaming device. The Sintrom 4510, which was developed by Sintrom's sister com-

developed by Sintrom's sister com-pany Perex, copies data for archiv-ing purposes from any size of file to the highly reliable 3M tape car-tridge. The 3M cartridge was cho-sen because of its wide industry acceptance as a stable and reliable nedium for back up.

The Sintrom 4510 costs £1,358 and is svailable direct from Sintrom in Reading or from Apple III

Sintrom Electronica (CW), 14 Arkwright Road, Reading, Berks RG2 0LS. Tel. (0734) 975464.



The Sintrom 4510 low cost back-up for Apple III Winchester disc users.

Data recorder unit is fully portable

and non-volatile storage of data from solid-state memories in data loggers and similar systems.

Called the Microdata model

Called the Microdata model M1683, the new unit employs a standard 1/2-incli magnetic-tape data cariridge as the storage medium; and it records in computer-compatible Ansi/Ecma serial format. It interfaces directly with the recently announced Microdata Solog all-solid-state portable data Solog all-solid-state portable data logging system.

Powered by internal rechargeable batteries, the M1683 is believed to be the only recorder of in-

time-sharing system.
The Superwriter II prints at 128 lieved to be the only recorder of its kind to feature its degree of aelf-contained portability. When fully charged its batteries have sufficient capacity for the save sufficient capacity for the sav characters per second Gallid (CW), 1 Bilton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7AA, Tel: (0788) 74442/3, clent capacity for the recording or play back of a complete data car-

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GENERAL PURPOSES SOFTWARE (PLI, FORTRAN, MARK IV)
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SALARY TO £26K Required Skills: At least 3 years Commercial Cobol experience in one or more of the iollowing areas:

a) MVS JCL TSO/SPF b) 4300 DOS CICS

c) Financial or Payroll experience.

Required Skills: At least 4 years experience developing Software for Mini or Micro based systems, especially PDP's and Hewlett Packard, ideally in a Process Control environment.

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Required Skills: MVS JCL TSO/SPF VSAM.
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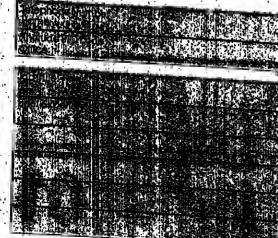
PL/1 (+TSO/SPF, JCL, UTILITIES, Debugging, COBOL, FORTRAN, IMS, CLISTS and PSL/PSA)

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PL/1, ASSEMBLER, IMS, CMS ± macro's SMP4, MVS VM OS/VS1

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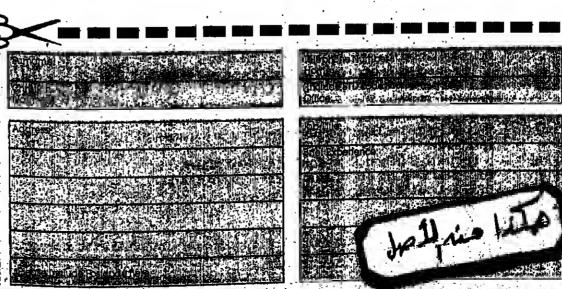
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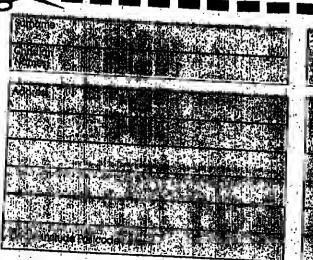


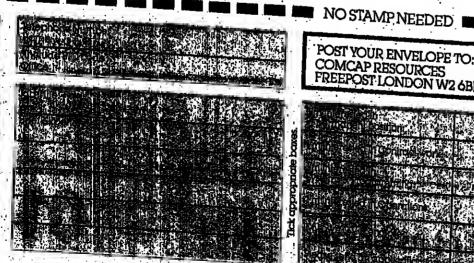


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However, controlling the installation, which is totally interactive, on a day-to-day basis is certainly not the total job. Forward planning in terms of new hardware, the ability to cope with the development of new operational systems and the

control of people in a growing computer installation form an important part of the total responsibility necessary to make a success of this position.

Befure you apply consider the following points: Have you worked in a seniar position in an interactive installation? If the the answer is no then on this occasion you are not the right

Do you have experience of controlling staff and dealing with users over a period of at least five years, and would you be able to prove this at an interview?

Have you experience of predicting future hardware demands in line with your understanding of computer user requirements? Have you worked in a position where the only person to fall back

Are you in the age range of 28 to 35, ambitious, keen to get ahead In a rapidly developing computer environment?

If the answer is yes to these questions then we would like to hear from you. Please send your curriculum vitae to JVG Recruitment

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You will need to have about 10 years experience for this demanding role, of which the last 3-4 years should have been in a "command, control and communications" environment You must have a combination of technical

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SYSTEMS ENGINEERS

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Mainframe/Micro link and exploitation of IBM's new SSX operating system rate highly on MSA's priority list for technological advancement during 1983.

You will receive constant training to keep you abreast of current technological developments and will benefit from the variety involved, both of work content and IBM systems. Opportunities exist for short trips to the U.S.A. and Europe.

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Please apply in writing, quoting experience and full personal history, to: Box No. 1248, Computer Weekly, Room 209, Quadrant Houss, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey. All replies will be treated with strict confidence.

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Box number replies should be addressed to:

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VAX, PL/I Programmers
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The Defence Group of a multi-national corporation argently requires a number of Senior Programmers/Team Leoders, to join both the Application and Systems Team currently emplayed at its Oevelopment Operatment. Experience should have been gained in a real-time environment over a period of 7-10 years. Specific application areas of interest set likely in include one or more of Command and Control, Process Control, Data Communications or Weapons

VAX/FORTRAN Programmers

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Inner/Greater London: Salaries to £11K

An international Systems Company specialising in the development and morketing of communications software it seeking additional President Communications and Distributed Processing Francers and Designers for its London Headquaters. Candidates aged 22-27 years should hold a numerate degree and heve a minimum of twelve mentits FORTRAN programming experience preferably gained in a POP-11 or VAX.

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Cambridge: Salaries to £12.5K

The Cambridge based Research and Development lacility of a rapidly expanding Micro Systems Supplier is currently seeking additional Programmers and Communications Design Engineers. Applicants for the positions of Programmer should offer a first or second class honours degree in a numerate subject and at least cighteen months subsequent experience in a micro based software development environment.

Fluency in a high-level block structured language is essential but applicants who can also offer experience in compiler writing/development will be of particular interest. For the positions of Communications Design Engineers you should offer an in-depth knowledge of Local Arca Networks and applicants who can also offer experience in compiler writing/development will be of particular interest. For the positions of Communications Design Engineers you should offer an in-depth knowledge of Local Arca Networks and applicants who can also offer experience in compiler writing/development will be of particular interest. For the positions of Communications Design Engineers you should offer an in-depth knowledge of Local Arca Networks and applicants who are acquainted with the Cuni-dipleted properties of the propert

'C' and Pascal Programmers

Central London: Salaries to £10K

One of the U.K.'s leading suppliers of micro-hardware and communications orientated soft-wate is currently seeking a number of 'C' and PASCAL Programmers in assist in the de-teleprachi of both applications and systems soft-wate. All respondents should hold a first or second class honours degree in Computer Science, Electronics or Mathematics. Those who have completed a sandwitch course and can offer

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A major Systems and Soliware House has rerently embarked on a large new project requiring
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Operational Analysts

London: Salary to £13.5K

A number of Operational Analysts are required by this London based Consultancy. Academically, you should hold at least a first or second sets B.Sc. Degree in Mathematics, Physics or Statistics, An M.Sc. or Ph.O. in Operational Research is a distinct advantage and will certainly reflect in the select of the position o

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JA816/8

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SOFTWARE ENGINEERS SOFTWARE PROGRAMMERS ... to £9,500

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029,000

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You will have had at least five years in a systams development role end seen projects through from inception to successful working order. Your experience range must include sevaral of the following eraas:

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You will heve had the necessery experience to ansure that the computer centre is able to provide the required level of service to many users throughout our offices end depots. You should have worked with Date Genaral computers in a lerge "on-line" environment end have e solid operations beckground. Two years' programming experience is required. The job also involves working with the Systems Teem in sizing end design of new applications.



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Training the first ordar — in addition to the Company's own in-depth treining in Bueiness and Management methods, considerable use is

Prospects ere excellent - successful cendidetes will be expected to progrese repidly into senior DP consultency poeltions, with opportunities

OTHER BENEFITS include frequent salary reviews on merit, generous trevel and accommodation expenses, subsidised BUPA. if you are seeking a career path that could take you right to the top, please telephone or write quoting Ref CW 2988.

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Somerset

upto£14k

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The projects are in distributed processing, specialised hardware control, micro-processor aided displays, and signal processing. Opportunities exist for alf levals of experience and aptilude:

Systems Analyste able to lay down the framework of a multi-processor design from customer requirements, and to communicate and control these designs during implementation.

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Progremmers wishing to develop their existing programming abilities and level of design reaponsibility.

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Salariee will ba in a renga up to £14k. Big company benelits includo help with relocation to our allractive part of the West Country, within essy reach of the South Coasi and enjoying the advantages of reasonably priced housing in aurrounding country towns end villages.

Please ring Peter Whitfield, Technical Resourcing Manager on Templecombe (0963) 70551 for an application form, or send a full cv to him el Pisssey Marina Research Unit, Wilkinthroop House, Templecombe. Somerset BA6 0DH. Pleasa quote relerence TEM/238



Opportunities in the Systems Development Group for

PROGRAMMERS

Central London up to £9,450

We need experienced staff with e minimum of two years' COBOL experience to work in an IBM environment on a wida range of development projects.

We are developing computer-based eysteme covering the whole sphere of London Transport'e activities, ranging from tha day-to-day operation and maintenence of buses and trains to the various support functione which are essentiel in providing an extensive transport service.

This requiree an expanding range of modern computers, which currently includes IBM 3033, 3031AP and 4341 e operating under MVS, an extensive and growing communications network based on IBM's SNA and distributed proceesing using IBM 8100 DPPX machines.

There are opportunities to work on extensive real-time and on-line systeme, involving distributed processing and database development. These are interesting, challanging jobs with excellent promotion prospects, and among our fringe benefits we offer FREE TRAVEL on all London Transport services and generous travel concessione on British Rall for you and your family.

If you have at least two years' COBOL experience and a working knowledga of atleast one of the following:

IBM OS/VS1 or MVS CICS and/or DL/1

Jackson Structured Programming (any environment) IBM 8100 DPPX systems

then pleese send FULL career detaile, in confidence, including length of experience with particular machines/software end current salary to Audrey White, Central Personnel, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD or If you prefer, 'phone for an application form on 01-227 3653

LONDON TRANSPORT

Applications, quoting ref. CDV 600 abould arrive not later than Monday 14th March as we intend to hold interviews by 28th March 1983.

(WANG

Weng Laboretories (Irl.) b.v., is the European headquarters for the manufactura of Wang products. Our rapid growth has resulted in the need to expend our Limerick based manufecturing and distribution facility to 320,000 sq. ft. over the

We are extensively utilising our advanced deta processing, word processing and office eutometion systems... while Wang's communications network, using our electronic mall system, has been devaloped for use internally as well as to Wang offices in Europe and the U.S.

To complament our M.I.S. team in implamenting and integrating systems into en advanced resource sharing network, we are currently seeking the following key

COMPUTER SYSTEMS/OPERATIONS MANAGER

Reporting directly to our M.I.S. Menager, the brief for this challenging position will be to menage efficiently the entire computer operations erea . . with staff responsibility for operations enelysts and operators. This is to ensure that service to user departments is maintelned at a very high level.

Candidates will be professionally quelified in an M.I.S. related discipline end will possess the direct systems and programming experience necessary to operete in a commercial on-line

The successful applicant will eleo demonstrate initiative and ability in introducing the latest hardware end operating systems and In Implementing networking and operations/applications

When applying, please quote Ref.: OM/CSI.

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

As active members of our M.I.S. team, the primary responsibilities of these positions will include designing and implementing integrated systems . . . together with assisting users to obtain niaximum return from our comprehensive ranga of applications.

Candidatea - with substantiel axperience in commercial on-line systems - will have a good background In systems analysis end/or extensive technical expertise

Excellent communications skills together with the initiative and ability to apply the latest technology in a business orientated environment will also he pre-regulates.

It is expected that cendidates who will be professionally qualified in a releted discipline, will have a proven record in at least one major project.

The arees of application for successful candidates will include menufacturing, materials M.R.P., angineering, telecommunications, networking, quality control, finence, personnel, order processing and office autometion. When applying, please quote Ref: SA/I.

For both positions, income Package and conditions of employment · which will include full relocation expanses where applicable - will be vary ettractiva and calculated to interest only high celibre applicants.

If you meet our requirements in terms of experience, qualifications and potential and you wish to contribute positively to one of the world's more progressive companies. please write, giving full career details and quoting relevant reference to: Richard Kennedy,

Recruitment Manager,
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SENIOR LECTURERS (two poets), to devalop CNAA degree course in Computer Studies/Computer Science with experience in supervision of a systems design and implementation project and/or extensive ecadamic/practicel experience in topics releting to software enginearing, real time and expart systeme. Developments enviseged will follow e strong technological blas with particular emphesis on practicel aspects. .

Good Honours degree in Computer Science/Computer Studies or elited discipling, or considerable nduetrial exparience raquired.

Salery range: £11,700-£14,748 per annum.

LECTURER to teach programming, use of coftwere packagas and microcomputer systems to a wide range of courses. Interest in operating systems end/or graphica ancouraged.

Good Honours dance in Computer Studies/Computer Science required. Salary range: £7,956-£12,561 per annum.

Assistance with removal expenses. Details from Secretary, Robert Gordon's institute of Technology, Schoolfill, Aberdeen AB9 1FR, (0224 523611). We are looking for an enthusiastic Manager with a relevant technical back-ground, and a strong commitment to the needs of young people. The Man-ogot will be required to set up and run the Contre and to take the lead in the looking its role as a locue for the redevelopment of micro-technology in the Norwigh area. The Centre will have a further five full-time steff. Further details and an application form are available from the Director of Administration, The City Council of Norwich, City Hell, Norwich NRC 1884, IPipese sak for Mr.C. 8. Srown, Tel. 22252 Ext. 586.)

Applications are welcomed regardless of mental status, say, race or discount where this will not prevent the applicant from fulfilling the duties of the post. Closing date 10th March, 1883.

MANAGER

A 30-place Centre to give training and work experience in micro electronic

Cambridge or Sheffield

GST is a professional systems company with offices in the Cambridge area — a new office is planned in Sheffield in April this year. The Company is structured into Software Services, Hardware Distribution and R & D and has specialised in systems software and the technical application of computers. Its reputation for quality has been gained by recruiting only the best technical staff and by its uncompromising internal quality assurance standards and methods.

With the 1983 planned expansion additional vacancies are immediately available. If your experience is not ideal for these specified vacancies there will be more openings later in the year, but we would welcome you registering your interest

Automation Systems Designer

A systems designer with at least six years' experience of the application of computer systems in manufacturing industries. Mini or micro based experience is essential but experience of DEC and implementation of turnkey systems in a process and production control industry and in providing consultancy to our current client bess.

Operating Systems Specialist

A highly competent systems specialist with at least six years' experience in the dasign and A nightly competent systems specielist with at lesst six years experience in the dasign and development of operating systems, executives or language systems primarily for mini or micro systems. Experience on Motorola 68000 or DEC equipment would be an adventage. The successful applicant will be involved in mejor software development projects in the role of

Technical Programmers

Self-motiveted progremmers are required to join teems working in CAD/CAM, real-time systems or microprocessor applications. A minimum of two years' experience is required, one of which should have been spent using FORTRAN, PASCAL or ASSEMBLER. Successful applicants will be involved in a wide veriety of interesting and challenging projects eg: image analysis, 3D ment.

Analyst/Programmer COBOL

A programmer is urgently required to join a small project team working on a major distributed system using multiple linked micros. At iseat three years' programming experience is essential including two years' Cobol, preferably CIS end experience of production control or related DP interective multi-user systems besed on local area networks.

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With a proven treck record in selling, preferably micro besed systems for technical epplications, your beckground should include technical experties as you will be responsible for generating

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For further deteils please contact Jenny Dalrymple-Hay or len Murray West (day 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.) 01-493 2947 or weekends respectively Beeconsfield (04946) 4579, Milton Keynes (0908)

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KNUTSFORD

Applications are invited from programmers who has 2/3 years' experience. A knowledge of COEOL and ASSEMBLER is required, preferably on large Mainting IBM equipment under MVS. In addition, experience of the continuous services with batch or continuous services. Here equipment under twive. In addition, experience of the developments with batch or on-line systems with Structured Programming Techniques is required a knowledge of ISO using SPF, IMS and affinancial space.

LONDON

There is one vacancy at this location. Applications in invited from COBOL programmers with 2/3 years experience. A knowledge of RPG and SYSTEM 34 WELL WILLIAM SEU, and some experience in the system of the system communication programming would be useful The position is based in Barclays Merchant Bank and therefor. some experience in this field would be af advantage The succeasful applicant would progress into Systems Analysis

The normal fringe benefits assaciated with workingler major Bank will apply, including a nan-confident pensionacheme, subsidised restaurant, excellent apontum social facilities and a profit abaring scheme.

Application Forms may be obtained from:

Ken Chlebrook Esq., Manager (Persanael), Barelaya Bank PLC,

Management Services Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheahire WA16 SEU or telephone Knutsford (0565) 3888 Ext 2743 or 274



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A vacancy axista in the Oale Processing department of the Besting Insurance and Finance Union for a Computer Operator/Justice

SISU runa an on-lina mambarahip records and finencial system on an ICL ME29/37. Applicants are invited from persons experienced in TME — CL and 2904 JCL who wish to progress into

Experience of an on-line environment and/all COBOL would be Tachnical ralarences will be required. Salary commences a £7,181 p.a.

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The Computer Services Department provides computing fecilities to the Polytechnic based on networked DEC-20-snd VAX systems, supporting over 150 terminals distributed ecross 12 sites.

Applications are invited for three newly created senior posts in the Programming Section. Applicants should possess a degree, or equivalent, and should have had a number of vars of valents and should have had a ounder of years of relevent experiencs. The successful candidates will each head a small group of Analysis Programmers in one of the following erees:

Applications: Responsible for applications softward packages — graphics, anginearing and business softwers.

Support of TOPS 20 and VMS operation ing eyeteme, networking micro

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These posts offer an ideal opportunity for self-motivated computing professionals to develop their experience and expertise in a stimulating environment using fully interactive networked computer systems.

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE No. LP/578. Closing date is 14 days from the appearance of this advantagement.

Application forms and further particulars from the Personnel Office, Liverpool Polytechnia, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pressent: Liverpool L3 5UX, Tel. No. 051-207, 3581 5xf, 2518.

Real-Time Expertise

Surrey Border £12-17,000-

High technology systems house needs designers and consultants to be involved in development and installation of Air Troffic Control and Telecommunications systems.
Familiarity with Assembler or real-time/
mathematical languages is desirable. Substantial remuneration package and relocation offered. Ref. 2402/A

Analyst/Pragrammer

City

£14-15,000

£10,000

Commercial or financial systems analysis skills coupled with on IBM Cobol background ore required to fill four new vaconcies. Condidotes must be obie to demonstrate reai ochievement in their coreer to dote. Ref. 2402/B

VME/B Systems Pragrammer Herts/Berks

Well-known retailing organisation specialising in laisure and electronics products requires systems programmer to support their 2966 systems. A minimum of two vsors' VME/B experience is required, at least six months must have been in technical support. Ref. 2402/C.

Analyst Pragrammer — HP Central Landan

£8-15,000 A ropidly growing systems house requires more stoff with knowledge of IMAGE, QUICK, QUIZ, etc. Minimum occeptable H.P. experience is two years and the rewords offered will depend upon how much relevant additional experience candidotss can offer. Ref. 2402/D

Analyst/Programmer

Herts. to £11,000

Mini monufocturer specialising in information copture systems, seeks analyst/programmer with experience of commercial real-time systems. A minimum of two years' high level longuage programming and the oblitty to deal with users is essential. Excellent coreer prospects. Ref. 2402/B

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4, Kendrick Mews, London SW7 3HQ Tel: 584 8790

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City

£12,000

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£9-13,000

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Subsidiory of mojor group requires Mothemotical Modellers to work on Performance Evoluation of Triols Data, Algorithm Development and Pre-Triols Performance Predictions. A good moths degree plus relevant experience is essential. Foscinating projects and excellent rewards. Relocation ossistance. Ref. 2402/G

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Major software and consultancy organisation requires programmers with COBOL or BASIC experience on PDP II or VAX hordwore. A good standard of education, smart appearance and professional attitude is most Importont. Competitive solorles and first class training offsred. Ref. 2402/H

Micro S/W Development

Thames Valley

Vocancies exist for graduotes with a minimum of two years' Assembler programming experience to join on existing team working on microprocessor-bosed P.O.S. Systems. Software design experiences and knowledge of BASIC or PASCAL would be advantageous. Our client offers first-closs coreer prospects. Ref. 2402/J

Merchandising Specialist

Berks.

£13,000+

Experienced designer required by internotional services company to work on design of new products for retailers to be implemented on mini computers. Condidotes must hove a sound business background in merchandising and project management skills. Relocation assistance. Ref. 2402/K

Banking Cansultants City

£16-18,000

Our client requires odditional consultants with at least two years' experience implementing banking systems. Present skills must include the obility to program in Cobal. Recent work as a project leader would be advantageous and total experience of five to seven years, including three years on large system, is required. Ref. 2402/L

Mathematicians

West Landon

£14,000

Our cliant needs mothemoticions with experience of torget aquisition, trojectory modeiling and simulation to Join teams working on vorious ospects of a major new weopons system. The project is of on early stage and these positions offer excellent career prospects. Ref. 2402/M

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One year's solid Cobol under VME is essentiol plus two years' related experience. Ideal working conditions and excellent financial prospects for work with first 12 months in Wiltshire then Central Landon. Ref. 2402/N

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Our clients soek u meture, technically orienteted individuel for a key role within their expanding Systems Development group. The preferred cendidate will have the ability to provide support, advice and guidance to design and programming staff in a CICS-COBOL environment and it is entircipated that management/supervisory responsibility will follow. Genuine cereer prospects togather with a number of exciting projects make this an outstanding opportunity.

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M4186

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Our cliente are currently seeking en Anelyst Progremmer with benking experience to be used in a world wide supervieory capecity. The Selery end benefite would be of interest to those seeking a more responsible and atimulating environment. The suitable candidate will be erflucists and resourceful and will have experience in IBM GSD equipment with at least 2 years RPG II including coding, teeting end documentation. Constent on the job treining will help you keep shreat of current developments. This post offere opportunities to quickly develop career potential.

SYSTEMS PROCD ARABIED

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M412

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If so our client, a femous name in sales and merketing, can offer a truly comprehensive benefits package in addition to an excellent beaic selery. Real career opportunities and a pleasant working

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Our client, e leading inaurance group, is accking a Senior Analyst and Analyst/Programmer for
end two years' at a similar level for the Analyst/Programmer, an ICL, VME/OME, Cobol background
is dealrable in both ceases. An excellent benefits package, including subsidied mortgage and bonus
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Applicants will be graduates and have a good working knowledge of Fortran gained in a technical environment. It is expected that for the 3D Modelling position, candidates will either have a strong mathematical background or some specialist experience in Modelling/

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ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

to £12,500 + Bonus

Acting es assistant to the Deta Processing Meneger, you will specify, design end implement systems enhancements and developments. A minimum of 3 years' ICL COBOL is essential and preference will be given to applicents with on-line systems experience.

SENIOR PROGRAMMER

A Senior Programmer or Programmer/Anelyst is required to be responsible for meintaining e steble operating environment end assist in all especte of system development. You will elso ba responsible for program specification end design through to testing and implementation. Extensive COBOL programming experience and a good grounding in DME utilities is essential. IDMS or on-line programming experience. ming exparience will be edvantegeous.

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Our client, part of a multinational engineering group, is looking for an unclassifiable kind of person. Not only a programmer with a keen interest in analysis — but someone who is willing to take part in all the functions of the d.p. department.

Reporting directly to the DPM, you will be expected to make a significant contribution to the running of this busy d.p. department. Your initiative and technical skills will make you an ideal candidate for moving into a supervisory role.

Ideally you have a background in COBOL programming, preferably gained on ICL ME29 or 2903/4 at a small installation, working in a commercial or manufacturing environment. Possibly you are seeking a fresh start — new source of inspiration. Our client can give you both. Not only responsibility, but also training in the uses of ME29 and design, and the stimulation of working in a progressive development environment,

If you feel that you have the all-round skills necessary to match this demanding role, telephone Sandra Hersh on 01-734 7394 during office hours —or on 01-458 6988 evenings or weekends.

We are recrulting on behalf of a major Multi-National Company, involved in the manufacture, retail and distribution of a wide range of engineering products for the industrial and domestic markets. A recent major policy decision has meant that our Clients now wish to augment their Regional

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The Corporate Management Services Department provides computing facilities to over 10 Companies within the Group through 4 Regional Computer Centres. The Durham Computer Centre supports the largest UK manufacturer and market leader in each of its product ranges, through systems developed on an IBM 4341. The Centre now requires a further 2 Systems Programmers to join the Technical Support Team which provides software services to applications development and operations staff, with additional responsibility for the support of Personal Computing facilities and micro computer software.

County Durham to£10.500 + Relocation

As designed as a second paragraph of the control of

The hardware operates under VM/DOS/VSE, and candidates are expected to be familiar with the Installation and maintenance of software, and have experience of at least one of the following; DOS/VSE, CICS/DL1, VM/SP, but other software

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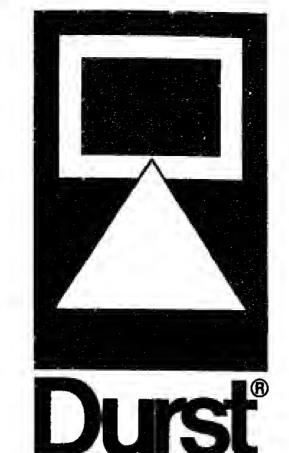
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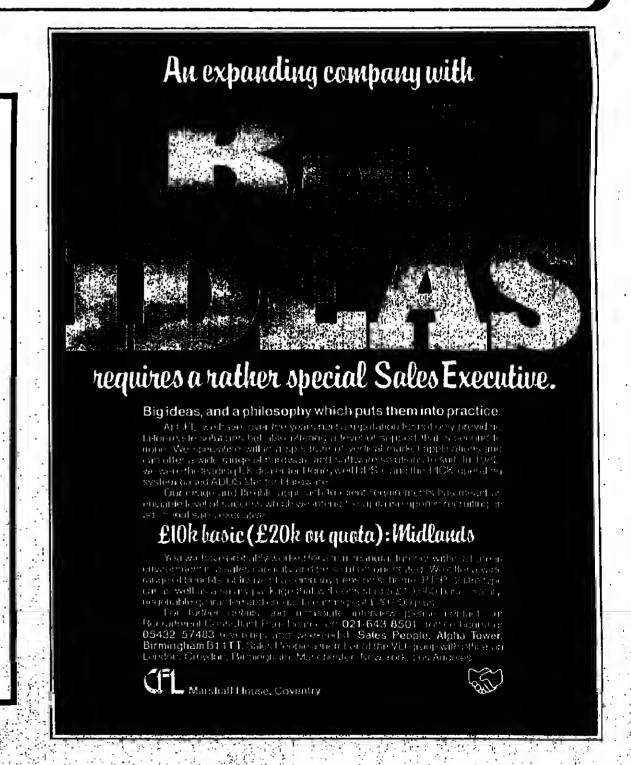
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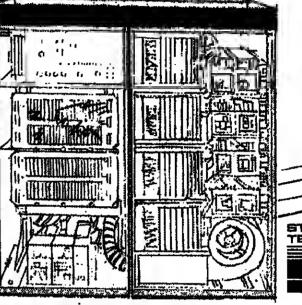
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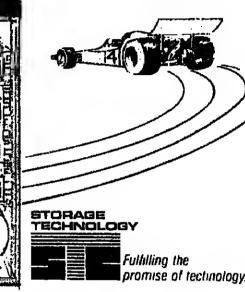
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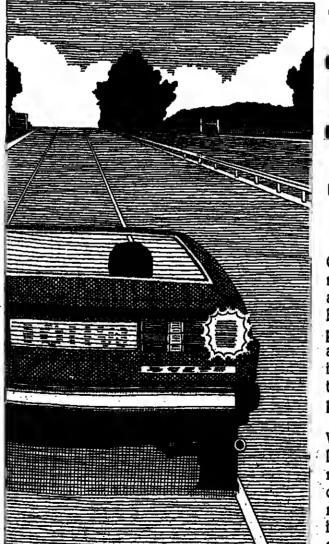
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I SALES BIT Quality of Management - 41

Failure to recruit staff can be costly

JANUARY and February dates became restless, and are usualty fairly depressing several of them changed their minds or decided to cause they typically provide the worst weather, it is also take alternative offers of embecause for most sales manpany decided to re-organise, which created considerable agers, and salesmen too, it is the time when they become "Yesterday's Heroes", and uncertainly about the size and organisation of teams. no matter how successful More time passed and other candidates decided they were last year, have to prove their capability all

thet the lack of progress was

able confidence in the com-

pany, or at least its manage-

Not surprisingly, the eventual outcome of the

exercise was a total failure to

recruit even one of the

original applicants.

Moreover, as campaign-gen-erated candidates are the ex-

clusive confine of the elient

and thus alternative place-ment of the suspended can-

didates was not profes-

sionally tenable, the result was a significant loss to both the client and ourselves.

The total elapsed time was

some three-and-a-half

months whereas the whole

process from short-list ap-plicant to individual job offers should not have taken

more than two to three

the reason for the unusual occurrence of a completely

failed recruitment campaigr

the reason was simple.

was oot the company, the product, the income pack-age, the personalities or re-cruitmeot methods; it was

simply the failure of branch

management to give top priority to interviewing and

selection ooce the recruit

ment process had been instl-

gated. There always seemed

to be some other event which justifled greater

When we came to analyse

some measure of the man-agement's decisiveness, or It is also a time wheo sales managers begin to realise the implications of failing to simply decided to stay put or accepted offers elsecomplete the sales recruitwhere. Suddenly, and not ment process before the without egitation by sening start of o new selling year. management, the branch sales managers began to rush around asking for in-Perhaps they were so busy closing "last minute" busi-ness in the hope of achieving terviewa to be set up; but by then it was reelly too late. The better candidates were mainly gone and those that remained had lost consider-

year appeared not to exist.

But it is here now, and with it the reality of heving an incomplete sales team that is obliged to achieve e sales target that does not take into account manpower shortages — or eveo the pound's de preciation against

last year's targets that oext

he dollar.
It is also at this point in he proceedings that the learning curve between the arrival of a new recruit and the likely achievement of his first sales success ia seen in its true and extended light. After all, you cannot expect a new recruit to close any-"bluebirds" in that interim period that consists of the basic training period plus the length of the average "selling cycle".

I recall an occasion one

September when my com-pany, Sales and Marketing Recruiters, carried nut a recruitment assignment for a major computer manufac-turer. The advertising cam-paign was successful and after the preliminary interviews had been pleted we had a good short-list of appropriate candi-

The company's senior management was eatisfied with both the volume of ap-plicants and the quality of a cross-section of candidates they met. Consequently, responsibility for processing the applicants was quickly passed to branch sales man-

priority until it was too late. Effective sales recruitment to one of the most im-However, by this time it portant elements of the sales vas October and the manager's role. One only has to consider the profits that are lost because of unapressure was siso beginning to build up for the salesforce to close a number of signifi-cant deals before the end of the sales year and as a result chieved revenues due to unmanned sales territories to realise how costly the failure recruitment was given a re-latively low priority. Time went on, the candi-

effectiveness and productty-

Alan Williams COURSES PUZZLE

ANSWER I

TRAINEE programmers with basic language training and initial programming experience may find useful a course run by BIS Applied Systems. Improving Programmer Productivity is a practical workshop for three THE triangle has an 8cm side, and the point lies oo the left hand perimeter. The puzzle is based on the smallest-integer solution 3(a⁴+b⁴+c⁴+d⁴) practical workshop for times who need to increase their $=(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)^2$

The course is non-residential. It will be held on March 29 and 30 at the Henry VIII Hotel in London and the fee is £250 + VAT. Further details from the orwants are Very Very This remarkable equation provides a means of linding the elde dimension of any equilateral triangle, when given the distance of a point from its three corners (even VAT. Further details from if the point is actually the organisers at York outside the triangle). Any House, 199 Westminster three of the values can be Bridge Road, London SBI taken as the three distances. 7UT, or phone Cherry Big. and the fourth will then to more or 01,261,9237.

a good sales track record and earnings more than £15K, pick up the telephone and convince us why you should be on our sheri-list. Talk to

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BASIC PROGRAMMERS to PROJECT LEADERS A number of cilents in London/Home Counties are seaking Programmers and Systems Programmers to Project Leeder level with a sound knowledge of 6ASiC+ or 6ASiC+2, under DEC RSTS/E, RSX11 or VAX/VMS, to work on s wide variety of resitims acientific and commercial systems including 6enking. Vacancies elso exist for MINI/MICRO specialists.

APG2/3 SPECIALISTS to DPM level A number of our clients situeted in London/Home Counties and Southern England need Progremmore and Ansiyate with two yeers' RPG2 end/or RPG3 experience, preferably on System 34 apportunities exist for training on RPG3, if required. Banefits include aubaidised MORTGAGE Section 2700.

PROGRAMMERS TO SENIOR ANALYST level HANTS to £14,800 We have been retained by an international organisation who needs exparienced systems and parsonnal to develop a wide variety of commercial applications. Applicants must have a sound knowledge of COGOL, preferably in a OOS/VSE, CICS/DL1 environment, with a bise lowerde-manufacturing systems, Excallent benefits.

SYSTEMS PROGRAMMERS SUSSEX/LONDON/BEDS to £14,000 Six of our cliente need 6AL Systems Programmers to take responsibility for a wide veriety of systems eoftware, from DOS/VS(E) to MVS alies. A knowledge of CICS/DL1 would be useful. Ref: A9831

SENIOR ANALYSTS

Major ICL User needs Analysta to take leading roles in the development of a variety of commercial applications. Successful applicants about possess leadership qualities, together with an ICL CO-entropy of the commercial eol, background. Knowledge of TP and/or IDMS useful.

HP 3000 SPECIALISTS LONDON/BERKS/BEOS We have received vacancies for Programmers and Analyst/Programmers to Project Leader level with a minimum of two years' COBOL experience, ideally in an interactive HEWLETT PACKARO analysts of the property o

SYSTEMS ANALYST/DEPUTY OPM LONGON £13,000 + banefits
This expanding internetional organisation is seeking someone to act as deputy to the O.P. Manager
in a busy IeM System/34 and 38 site. The successful applicant will have sound commercial design
experience, plus ability of communicating with Users at all levels. A knowledge of RPG3 would be
an advantage, but formal training will be given.

Raf: C9834

ICL PROGRAMMERS & ANALYSTS

A number of VME/B clients based in London, Surrey, Middlesex and Sussex need development and technical support staff with a minimum of two years' ICL COBOL experience. Knowledge of IOMS is

Our client needs two Programmers with two years' COOOL experience to assist in the development of applications on their recently installed DEC/VAX mechine under VMS. Benefits include free exotic Ref: A990F

Our Cliant, a leading menufacturing organisation needs on Analyst with a minimum of two ysers' commercial design experience to assist in the development of a wide variety of application areas. A knowledge of CICS and OL1 would be an advantage. Excellent benefits include a RELOCATION neckage, where appropriate.

Ref: D9989

PL1 PROGRAMMERS (ANALYSTS) HERTS/BERKS to £11,500 Two leading menufacturing compenies have vacancies for Programmers and Programmer/Analysts where appropriate, together with associated large company banefits.

Ref: D888B

BAL PROGRAMMERS
Two major Benking and Software organisations need ABSEMPLER Programmers to take leading roles in the development end conversion of various special systems and modules. A knowledge of Using CICS, plus other spheres of the business operations.

11.000+

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OEC PROGRAMMER

MEOWAY/KENT

Unique opportunity for someone with good communicative skills end a working knowledge of RSTS/E and BASIC+2, to be solely responsible for running of a 11/70 install atton. Excellent conditions of employment are offered.

Ref: 89891

NEAT 3 PROGRAMMER
Lerge menufacturing company blacks NEAT 3 PRUBRAMMER

Lerge menufacturing company riceds someone with at least two years NEAT 3 experience for their NCR B485 installation. A knowledge of on-line programming is an advantage. Excellent company benefits apply.

Raf: B9890

FORTRAN SPECIALISTS LONDON/HOME COUNTIES C£11,000 Progremmere are required to join existing development teams to work on a wide variety of applicants including adentific, research, angineering and commercial projects. Excellent benefits include annual BONUS/PROFIT SHARE, B₁Sc 2.1/2;2 Graduetes for junior levels. Ref: C3842

BUICK COMPUTER SERVICES Tel: 01-834 0061 (24-hours)

72 Rochester Row Or call evenings and weekends Victoria · London SW1P1JU

REF. A. 01-318 2700 REF. B. 01-794 5937 REF. C. 01-942 1178 REF. D. 01-843 0148 The above vacancies are only a token selection taken from our gurrent files, and we are stoways pleased to hear from computer professionals wishing to further their cereer objectives.

RPG2/3 ANALYST/PROGRAMMER This loading menufacturing organisation requires eomsone with a minimum of two years and/or RPG3 experience. This position would suit eomeone wishing to be trained in RPG3 when eppropriate.

ICL PROGRAMMERS & ANALYSTS **E LONDON**

(NEW BITE)
Our clients, e leading manufacturing company, have recently inatelled their first computer, and 2968, and are consequently seaking Programmers and Ansiyats with VME/e COGOL syperiance (DMS/Ostabase (TPS) knowledge would be useful. Excellent carear peths and conditions of employ.

Ref: 8669

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS SUSSEX/MIODX Two lerge construction companies are both easting Anelysts with a cound COBOL programming background, to develop systems on the ICL ME29. The successful applicants will be responsible to supervising a smell team of programming staff on varied applications.

210,000

Rel: Aggregation of the country of the

ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS

This large publishing company are looking for paople who went to develop their skills within a progressive D.P. environment. A working knowledge of COBOL is accentisi, preferably in a DOS/VSE, CICS environment. Excellent prospects and benefits package is offered.

Rei: Association.

JUNIOR ANALYST Mejor Software organisation need a Junior Analyst with a good financist or general commercial background, capable of handling beepoke systems in a MINI/MICRO environment. Programming knowledge may be useful, but not essential.

PROGRAMMERS & ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS BUCKS to £10,000

(ANY MAINTHAME)
This service company has vacancles for personnel with a minimum of 12 months' COBOL experience, to undertake development of new applications using OEC VAX kit in a OBMS environment. Previous DEC experience en adventage, but not essential. Excellent fringe benefits. Rel: D966

RPG2 IO RPG3 PROGRAMMER

Leading insurance company needs a Progremmer with either RPG2 or RPG3. Full treining will be given on their System 38 Sita. A well-structured esreer peth and excellent monetary benefits epply.

Ref: 8994

Leading financial organisation based in N Surray require experienced Programmers with at leaf to benefits are offered.

SURREY

CEQ. 500

MORTGAGE, eUPA scheme, end many olike benefits are offered.

Ref: 9996

JUNIOR BAL PROGRAMMER (One year)

This financial organisation wiehes to recruit some one with approximately one year's ASSEMBLER experience gained in an IBM environment. Excellent monetery benefite epply.

Ref: 8660

OPERATIONS DOS SENIOR OPERATOR experience in OOS/VSE, CICS and VTAM. Genefite include MORTGAGE facilities, etc.

Rei: C9818

MYS OPERATORS

MIDOX/LONDON

10 £10,400

Two leading organisations require Operators to Shift Leader level with MVS/JES2 experience to complament their expanding team structures. Excellent prospects and benefits apply. Ref: C9843

IBM SHIFT LEADER A minimum of three yeers' OOS/VSE experience coupled with good supervisory skills are seented for this TWO-SHIFT environment. Excellent modern working conditions end benefits apply.

Ref: B8676

IBM SHIFT LEADER Financial organisation requires someone with OS/VS1 or VM experience espable of taking charge of e-shift in an IBM 4300 environment. Benefits include MORTGAGE scheme, OUPA, etc. Ref. D879 **WEST COUNTRY**

Rataling group requires experienced VME/8 Operators with at least two years' background. Excelsint modern working conditions apply, together with full relocation costs paid, where applicable.

Rel: 1980 t OEC SHIFT LEADER (Two shifts) UEC SHIFT LEADER (TWO Shifts)

Ideally, the aucceasful applicant should have three yeers' RSX 11/VMS experience. Familiarity with making the financial package very rewarding.

ESSEX

£8,000 + S/A

XAX 750/780 machines would be desirable. An extremely generous shift allowance is offered making the financial package very rewarding.

IBM OPERATORS This finencial organisation need two Operators with OOS/VSE, VM expertise. Sens MORTGAGE subsidy, monetary loens, etc.

Our client is relocating to NEWBURY later this year and are wishing to recruit experienced DOS/VSE Operators. Initially all travel costs to their present site in Burray will be paid. DAYS ONLY.

Ref: 89806 OATA CONTROL CLERKS (ANY MAINFRAME)
A leeding international ternational organisation is seeking two Deta Controllers with a minimum of two years.

These positions are FLEXI-DAY hours only with the occasional overtims. Rel: C9692

Our client, a large Bureau, need Operators with 19 months' DME/GEORGE 2 expenience. The alter operation a three-shift system and offers plenty of overtime, benefits etc.

10 26,300

Ref: 89880

HONEYWELL OPERATOR Our ollent requires someone with a minimum of six months' GCOS experience to work a TWO-benefits.

HANTS

£6,060

SHIFT system in a HONEYWELL level 65 environment. Excellent cereer prospects and company Ref: A9628

AODRESS.

FINANCIAL MODELLING CONSULTANTS

Our client is one of the most successful and profitable international computer service organisations in the UK. They offer a full range of services to management, including financial and corporate planning. Their success is based on a continuing philosophy of recruiting expert committed staff in key market disciplines, and their enviable reputation for product innovation. In order to enhance the excellent pre- and post-sales support that they provide, they now seek two professionals with experience of Financial Modelling for the positions ot:

CONSULTANT

up to 10K

SENIOR CONSULTANT up to 12K

★ Ideally you will have a degree

- *You will currently be working with financial modelling packages, either as a user or in a support role.
- *You will have good communicative skills, both written
- ★ You can work well under little supervision and have a good understanding of business operations.
- *You should have a degree, plus three years' computing experience.
- ★ You will have experience in sales support for a software house, bureau, or manufacturer,
- ★ Or, you will have used a financial modelling system (preferably FCS-EPS) in a senior role in a user organisation.
- ★ You are looking for an opportunity to gain project management experience on a variety of applications.

These positions are based in Central London. If you enjoy variety and challenge and are interested in a positive career progression, telephone HUGO FAIR on 01-828 2416 or write enclosing a brief résumé (quoting Ref: HF/101)

205 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON SW1E 5NE. TELEPHONE: 01-828 1574/1327

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

COMPUTER OFFICER

Applications invited for post of analyst/programmer to work with the departments I PDP11 machines on wide range of research and teaching activities and to interface with microprocessor systems, mint computers and University mainframes. Experience with UNIX desirable.

Salary on the Computer Officer scale, £6,550-(£9,370)-£11,105 plus superannuation. Starting selecy will depend on age, qualifications and experience.

For further particulars, phone 021-472 1301, axt. 2669, quoting reference 52.

No formal application form. Three copies of application, including full Curriculum Vitas and naming three referees to Assistant Registers, (Science and Engineering), P.O. Box 363, Birmingham 815 217, by 11th March, 1983.

The Weter Research Centre has three laboratories; one et Swindon, Wilts, enother et Medmenham, Bucks and e third et Stevanage, Herts. WRC, with a total steff of 500, is the national centre for water research in the United Kingdom and is one of the largest water research organisations in the world, it is financed principally by the Regional Water Authorities, the Weter Undertakings and the Department of the Environment.

Analyst Programmers up to £13,000

We are setting up a new team to work on systeme of the future incorporating all aspects of information technology, and have vacancies for a number of Analyst Programmere at WRC Engineering in Swindon.

Candidatea should hold a degree in Computer Science or equivalent, and have several years experience in one or more of the following areas: DATABASE, GRAPHICS, OR COMMUNICATIONS. The successful candidates will be experienced in the application of the latest hardware technology and software techniques, and will have the ability to work with minimal supervision.

WRC runs a network of VAX computers and has a progressive computing policy to support its research projects, management information systems and text processing. Conditions of employment include a contributory pension scheme

and assistance with relocation expenses where applicable. Applicatione in writing, giving full details, quoting post no. 392, to: Mrs.E. Bunting, Personnel, WRC Engineering, PO Box 85, Swindon, SN5 8YR.

Closing date: 11 March 1983.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Required for newly created post. Work involves computer surveys of Health Services provided by the Authority and essisting in the development of information systems.

Candidates must be fully conversent in computer technology and have knowledge of information Post is for en initiel two-year period Commencing salery £5,420 p.a.

Informal anguiries to Dr J. M. Bainbridge, District Medical Officer. Tel: Derlington 60100 Ext. 3082.

Application form and job description from Personnel Department, Memorial Hospitel, Derlington, Co. Durham. Closing date for completed applications 7th March, 1983.

DARLINGTON. HEALTH AUTHORITY

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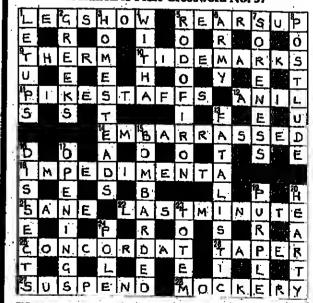
to consider these contracts.

Contact Roger Radford or

Richard Junes on 021-643 4700.

near future.

Solution to Prize Crossword No. 37



CROSSWORD

THIS month's £10 prizewinner is Derek Harrison, director of Yorkshire Computer Services in Bradford. Prizes of £5 each go to Nick London, an analyst/programmer with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in Keot, and to Chris Clark, who is a program support representative with IBM in Chiswick.

Compuhire Temple Unione;
43-48 New Street, Birmingham II2 41:14;
Tel: 021-643 4700 Telex: 337045. Licensed by the D.O.E. as an Employment Business